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A FISHERMAN PUBLICATION

The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Largest Weekly Sportfishing Magazine in the United States!

May 28th, 1981 ★ Volume 16, Number 21 ★ 16th Year of Publishing ★ SEVENTY-CENTS

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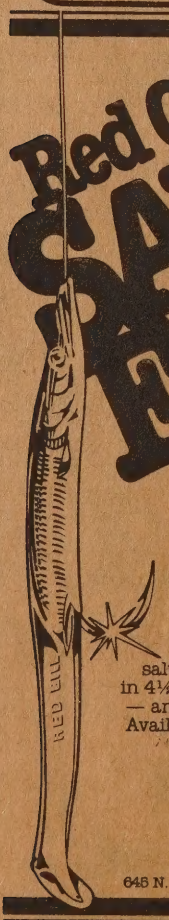

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EDITORIAL

SURF FISHING ADVISORY COUNCIL AND L.I.S.P.R.C.: PARTNERS IN PROGRESS

For about a year-and-a-half now, the Fishing Advisory Council and the Long Island State Parks and Recreation Commission have been holding regular meetings to discuss the status of surf fishing in the parks and to examine a variety of problems that have been experienced by all concerned groups.

The accomplishments of this joint group have been many, and I have previously thanked and commended participants for their mature and sincere efforts. One of the immediate benefits of this effort was the exchange of information between the Fishing Advisory Council and the L.I.S.P.R.C. through its representatives John Sheridan and Robert Ott. We have educated each other about each other. We have begun to understand the situation from the other guy's point of view. There are times in these discussions when someone says something that is less than gracious or demonstrates a lack of full understanding, yet the reaction is a willingness to inform rather than an urge to ridicule. Although I don't believe that any of the participants would argue that the opening of lines of communication has not been of immense importance, the group has also made progress on more substantive issues. Through the hard work and often brilliant ideas from ALL members of the joint group, we have developed and will implement any number of improvements in the system that will improve security, reduce vandalism, and make the beaches for fishermen what they were intended to be; that is, places to fish. The beaches are not the proper place for dune races, pot parties, beer orgies, and aggressive anti-social behavior. The L.I.S.P.R.C. is as committed as we are to the use of the beaches by legitimate surf fishermen, but we are also equally united against flagrant misuse of the facilities by a small percentage of people who have little, if any, concern for beaches in any way, shape, manner, or form.

There has also been surf access added to those beaches that were already open for fishing. Last fall the beach at Robert Moses Field 4 was open to daytime fishing during October, November, and December. This is a stretch of beach that has traditionally been the scene of fast daytime fishing for blues and bass in the fall. Now this year, at the April 13, 1981 meeting of the group, we discussed and agreed to open up Robert Moses Field 4 this spring for daytime fishing. The beach will be available to legitimate surf fishermen with L.I.S.P.R.C. fishing permits between sunrise and sunset between April 18, 1981 and May 21, 1981. This stretch of beach has traditionally produced good catches of striped bass to bottom fishermen using worms as the Chesapeake schools work their way north in April and May.

Of course, there are no guarantees in surf fishing and no one has a crystal ball. Perhaps the spring run of bass will be poor or what fish come by will not wander close to the beach. The fall fishing along this beach wasn't what it had been for the previous few years. However, this is not the point. Who could have predicted the severe southeaster that hit us last October and ruined many of the south shore beaches, and no one know how many spring bass will come our way. The point is that the access is available and if a run of fish develops, the opportunity will exist to enjoy them.

We caution all fishermen to use the beach wisely. Don't leave debris behind you. Take those cardboard boxes of worms with you when you leave. Take your papers and while you're at it, bend down and pick up a few of the cans and papers that maybe others left. Please don't abuse the sunrise to sunset restrictions. What we're saying is that with the privilege of using this beach comes the responsibility to use it properly. If we do, it will be access that we can have permanently.

These modest gains in access are only an example of how the group has worked so well together. The world is a dynamic place and few things remain the same indefinitely. With this understanding we can always look ahead and attempt to adjust to the changing world. What needs to be established, and has been established, in concrete is a philosophy of cooperation and mutual understanding. Once in place, the precise details of circumstances and conditions can be worked and reworked to adjust to the changing scene without ever changing the basic premise.

There will be problems that will confront the group in the future. There will be disagreements that will crop up, too. Inevitably each bias will attempt to promote its own perspective as far as it can reach, for this is the human

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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Largest Weekly Sportfishing Magazine in the United States!

Volume 16, Number 21 **May 28th, 1981**

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About the Cover—

Baitcasting tackle is enjoying a surge in popularity and has become standard equipment for many saltwater anglers. See Al Ristori's article on page 30 for a better idea of what's available on today's market. Cover by Pete Barrett.

COMING NEXT WEEK: **SHELTER ISLAND WEAKFISH**

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Al Ristori ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Pete Barrett CONTRIBUTING EDITOR
W.A. Muller MANAGING EDITOR
Stu Miller ADVERTISING MANAGER
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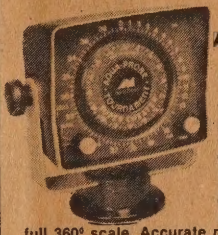

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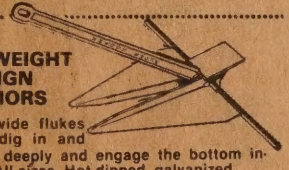

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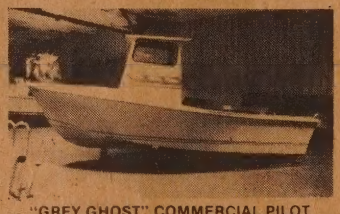

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Pass It On...

URGE LETTERS TO SUPPORT GILL NET LIFT BILL

The Long Island Fisherman has learned that the Encon Gill and Trammel Net Bill will likely come up for a vote in the Senate of the State of New York within a week or so. This legislation provides that, "except for the waters of the Atlantic Ocean or Long Island Sound, no gill or trammel net shall be set in the waters of the marine and coastal district from sunset Friday to sunrise Monday between April 1 and November 1." If passed, this legislation should impact on the gillnetting for weakfish in the Great South Bay. We know that many of you out there have very strong feelings about controlling the gill net slaughter of weakfish in the Great South Bay. The commercial fishermen have already begun to exert their pressure against the bill's passage, so now is the time to support a bill that restricts the gill netting. Please send your letters to:

SENATOR OWEN JOHNSON
State Office Building
Route 109 & 27A
Babylon, N.Y. 11702

Please refer in your letter to Bill 3015-C and ask that the final legislation retain the total lift period for inner waters.

STRIPER RESEARCHERS DISCOVER AWESOME POISONS

Funding made available through the Chafee Amendment to the Anadramous Fish Act is enabling the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) to continue research "on the idea that toxic chemicals are one of the elements that is reducing the spawning and survival success of striped bass on the north Atlantic Coast," according to Dr. Robert Stevens, Director of Fishery Ecology Research with the FWS. But early studies are demonstrating that the effects of toxic chemicals on fish are not as clear cut as was initially suspected, or hoped.

For example, there is a statisticially significant correlation between the pesticide DDT and hatching success and larval survival of stripers in the Chesapeake Bay. But no strong correlation exists with PCB, although that substance has exhibited the same deleterious effect on bird egg shells as DDT. Further complicating matters, the concentration of PCBs in the Hudson River is as much as three times that in the Chesapeake estuary, and yet "the stock of Hudson River striped bass are the strongest on the East Coast," Dr. Stevens says. "It may be that the one (toxicants) we've been blaming are not the ones doing the damage."

The bulk of the research into the

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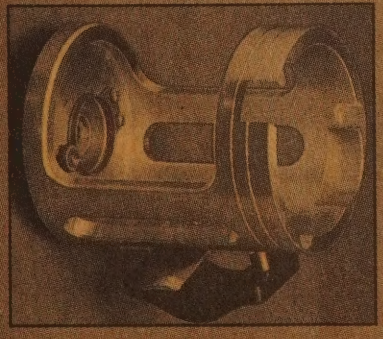

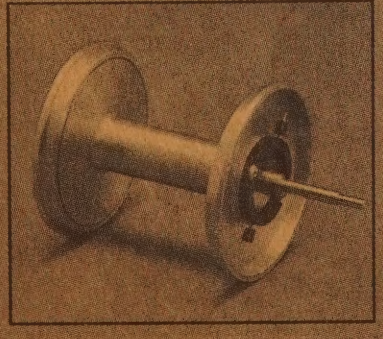

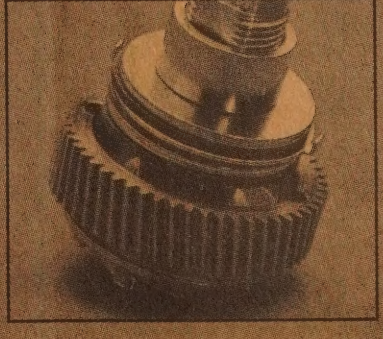

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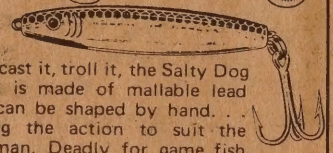

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effects of toxic substances, including chemicals and heavy metals, is taking place at the FWS Columbia Fishery Research Laboratory in Missouri. Toxicological tests on striped bass this spring will involve a number of substances, including PCBs, but it is what will not be tested this spring at Columbia that is the most interesting.

Fish samples from the Housatonic River and some of the Great Lakes have indicated the presence of chemicals that no one realized were there. Dioxins and furans, perhaps the two most toxic substances known to man, have been detected and raised concern among investigators. Dr. Richard Schoettger, head of research at the Columbia Lab, is quick to emphasize that studies involving the dioxins and furans are "very preliminary," and that the analytical work that must be done is not yet complete.

This work cannot even begin, however, until a laboratory with the proper testing facilities can be located. Even in concentrations measured in parts per trillion, says Dr. Schoettger, these chemicals are too toxic to be handled safely by technicians in the present facilities at the Columbia Lab.

SUMMER BOATING COURSES AT NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Now that spring is here, people are thinking about vacations and summer weekends out of doors. Many are looking forward to the joys of boating and water sports for the first time.

"We want to be there when they need us most...at the beginning of the boating season," said Len Weisbrot, Flotilla Commander, as he announced plans for a free boating course by Coast Guard Auxiliary volunteer instructors of Flotilla 13-8.

The Flotilla has obtained the cooperation of Nassau Community College in sponsoring a 12-lesson course in "Boating Skills and Seamanship" to be given at the college beginning June 9. The course covers Boat Handling, Aids to Navigation, Compass and Charts, Piloting, Rules of the Road, Radiotelephone, Marlinspike Seamanship, Legal Requirements and a number of other subjects which will enable you to operate a boat safely and efficiently. The course is free to the public, except for a materials charge.

Registration will be held from 7PM to 9PM, in several locations as follows:

Monday and Tuesday, June 1 &2—Roosevelt Field Shopping Center Community Booth (on the mall opposite Gimbels).

Tuesday, June 2nd—Nassau Community College South Student Center.

Wednesday, June 3—Wantagh Library, Park Ave., Wantagh.

Thursday & Friday, June 4 & 5—Mid-Island Plaza at Security Desk (under Flag). Weekly classes begin: Tuesday, June 9, 8PM, at the South Student Center of Nassau Community College.

For further information, phone Mr. Len Weisbrot (516) 546-2404 or Mr. Gray Silverstein (516) 735-5611.

This is an opportunity for novice boaters to gain important knowledge that will make their boating safe and enjoyable.

ATLANTIS ANGLERS

The Atlantis Anglers' Weakfish Inter-Club Tournament will be held on Saturday and Sunday, May 30th and 31st. There are a few openings left for new members. Anyone interested, contact Allan Zaretsky, 516-796-3982 after 8PM.

EMANON FISHING CLUB AWARDS DANCE

The Emanon Fishing Club of Jamaica, New York, held its 5th annual dance on May 9th at the beautiful Holiday Inn near JFK Airport.

There were three cash door prizes awarded to those who held the lucky ticket stubs and a special raffle which amounted to a "truckload of cheers." Trophies were awarded to the following members for the largest of the species sought on individual trips for 1980: Lester Alston—flounder; Jim Whitten—bluefish; David Kendle—porgy; Richard Sellers—weakfish; William Webb—porgy; Harry Forston—sea bass; Roosevelt Brooks—codfish, and Charles Toomer—porgy.

A special "Man of the Year Award" was presented to the President: George Mann.

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Hook, Line & Sinker Bait and Tackle, Freeport has just been appointed as the Shimano factory authorized repair station for the New York area. Bob Banks at Hook, Line and Sinker says he has all parts for all Shimano spinning and conventional reels in stock, including the new Triton series.

MONTAUK SHARK TAG TOURNEY

The Montauk Marine Basin's Tenth Annual Shark Tag Tournament is scheduled to be held this year July 18 and 19. In addition to the ongoing scientific work that has become tradition at the tournament, the sponsor will continue funding the Montauk Marine Basin Research Scholarship program which was inaugurated last year. The first scholarship of $1,000 was awarded recently to Mary C. Gibbons, a graduate student conducting research to earn a doctoral degree at the Marine Sciences Research Center at the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

The Shark Tag Tournament at Montauk, a pioneer in tagging and releasing the bulk of a tournament catch as opposed to indiscriminate and massive kills, last year adopted "Tag—Not Bag" as a theme for its contest. More than 1,000 sharks of various species have been tagged and

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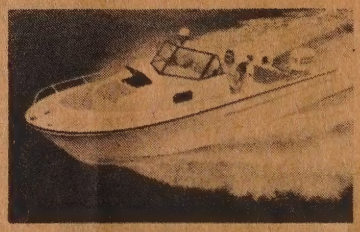

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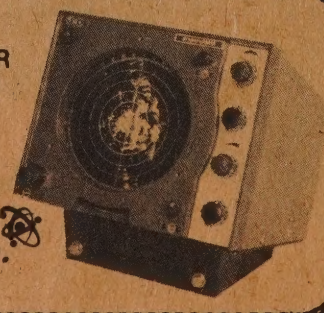

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released by deep-sea anglers.

Researcher Jack Casey of the NMFS reported recently that in 1980, 5,236 sharks representing thirty-four species had been tagged and released under the National Marine Fisheries Service cooperative shark tagging program. Volunteer taggers accounted for 95% of the releases. In the same period, 146 tags were returned from fourteen species of sharks that had been recaptured at later dates.

The researcher reported that a blue shark tagged off Montauk had set a new long distance record by travelling 3,630 miles (in a straight line) in nine months to be recaptured off the coast of Liberia. Some tagged sharks are at liberty as long as five years before being recaptured, he said.

With the increasing public interest in sharks, both the numbers of participants and spectators have grown dramatically in recent years at the tournament. The fleet of sleek fishing boats has increased from the initial twenty-three, ten years ago to last year's ninety craft ranging from twenty-five footers to powerful sixty foot sportfishers. More than 100 boats, each carrying four to six anglers, are expected to fish the tournament this year.

HOW-TO ABOUT LURES

Guest speaker Mickey Chiarenza will give a How-to on the proper use of artificial lures at the Lower Bay Anglers June 1, 1981 meeting. Mickey has long since been on the fishing scene and has accumulated much information to make for an educational and entertaining night. His expertise on color, size, action imitation and manipulation of artificials along with a few salty stories will benefit the beginning as well as the experienced fisherman. The Lower Bay Anglers will meet at the Masonic Club, 76-04 4th Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y. at 7:30 p.m. This will be an Open House meeting; there is no fee for attending.

For more information, call Harty Gazzani, (212) 238-2636 AM; or bill McCormack, Sr., 680-5444, PM.

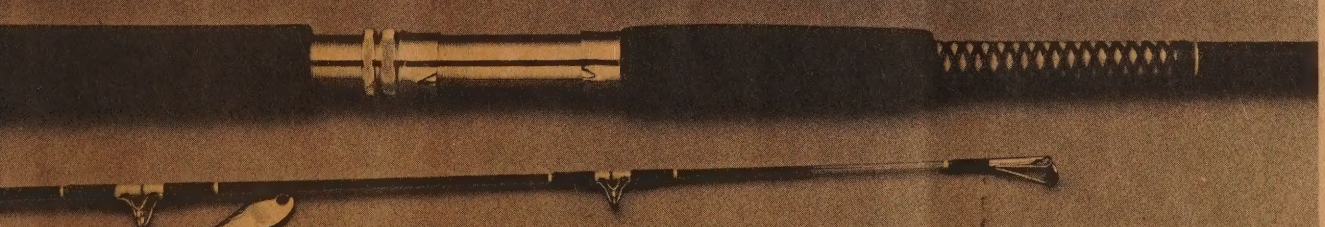
ACID RAIN SERIOUS THREAT TO NORTHEAST

Commissioner of Environmental Conservation Robert F. Flacke today charted the Federal Government with "foot-dragging" in its response to "the serious environmental dangers facing the Northeast" caused by acid rain and the long-range transport of acidic pollutants.

Speaking at an acid rain conference sponsored by the Canadian-American Center of the State University of New York at Buffalo, Commissioner Flacke declared:

"We must understand that acid rain is a very real and immediate threat to the lives of thousands of lakes and ponds throughout the Northeast. The argument that more data is needed for prudent decision-making is foot-dragging. There is no doubt the threat exists and there is a

Introducing the toughest rod on 75 percent of the earth's surface.



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There's only one place you can get the toughest, lightest, most durable big-water rod ever made. From Shakespeare.

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The result: A big-water rod so strong, it can outfight most any fish that swims. Yet so light, you can fish all day without tiring.

In fact, we're so confident the Ugly Stik rod can take any punishment a fish can dish out, we'll replace it free within five years of purchase if it ever breaks under normal fishing conditions.

But the best thing about the Ugly Stik rod from Shakespeare is that there are over 20 different big-water Ugly Stik rods to choose from.

From spinning and casting rods to fly rods to downrigger and boat rods.

Remember that the next time you wade into a fight with a big-water monster.

Because when you challenge the toughest fish on 75 percent of the earth's surface, you want a rod that's 100 percent dependable.

Don't take chances with your line, either. Always spool on plenty of crystal-clear Sigma™ Big Water Mono, the best all-around big-water monofilament ever invented.

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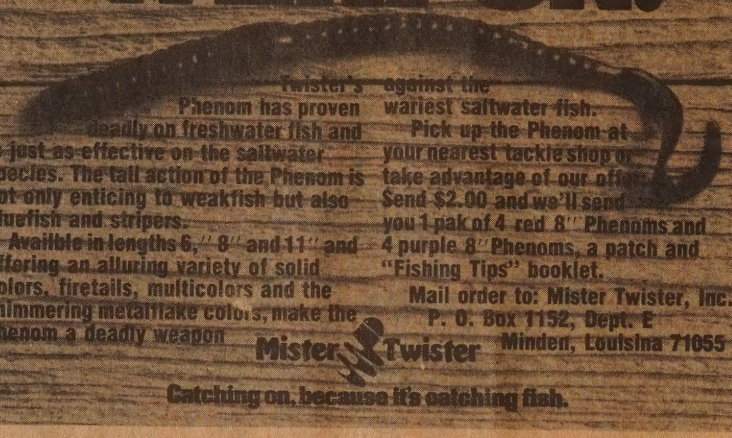

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Pick up the Phenom at your nearest tackle shop or take advantage of our offer. Send $2.00 and we'll send you 1 pak of 4 red 8" Phenoms and 4 purple 8" Phenoms, a patch and "Fishing Tips" booklet.

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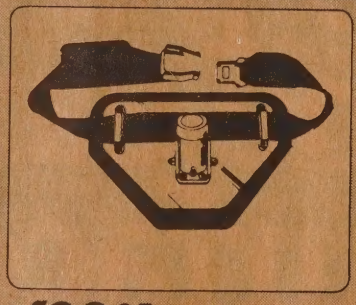

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need for action now."

Commissioner Flacke said that New York State, under Governor Carey's leadership, has developed and demonstrated the need for an imaginative program to address the threats posed by acid rain.

"We have repeatedly petitioned the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to assume a leadership role in dealing with this national problem," Commissioner Flacke declared. "Washington has responded with a 10-year study program—described by many as a disjointed and ineffective response to this critical problem.

"In order to pinpoint the source of these emissions, we asked EPA to fund a long range tracer study, which we believe would prove conclusively that emissions are coming from the Midwest. We asked EPA's help almost ten months ago. To date, EPA has not even given us the courtesy of a reply."

Commissioner Flacke said there are "increasing indications that Washington is confused over its role and, indeed, duty, to protect the nation's environment. Shifting what is clearly a national responsibility to the states is not an answer. But, obtaining a proper division of responsibility among all levels of government is an important goal."

Commissioner Flacke pointed out that:

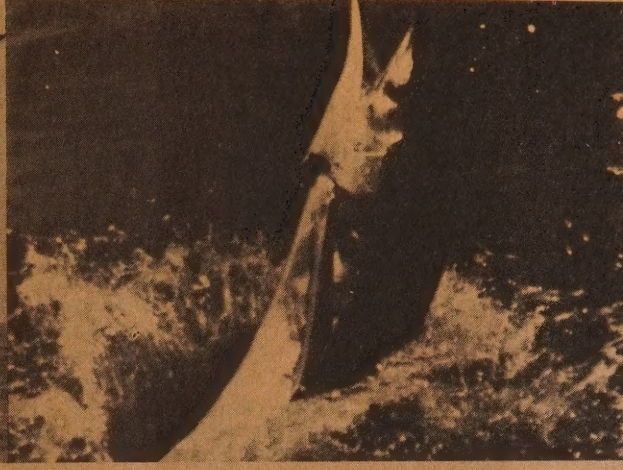
—Governor Carey soon will convene a conference of Governors of concerned states to join in efforts to achieve a solution to the acid rain problem.

—New York State supports a national program of coal washing, which, coupled with a retrofitting of coal-fired existing power plants, would go a long way towards reducing acid rain.

—New York State is examining another proposal for setting national emissions standards for oxides of sulfur and nitrogen.

In addition to having done extreme damage to some 11,000 acres of Adirondack lakes and ponds, acid rain is threatening an addition 63,000 acres and there is some evidence that it is posing a danger to several warm-water fish species, in addition to causing trout mortality, Commissioner Flacke said. He added there is also concern that acid rain damages soils, retards the growth of plants, and erodes stone buildings, marble monuments and metal structures.

"The Clean Air Act expires this year," Commissioner Flacke said, "and we must ensure that when Congress acts, it does so with the full understanding and knowledge of the long-range pollution transport dilemma facing the entire nation."



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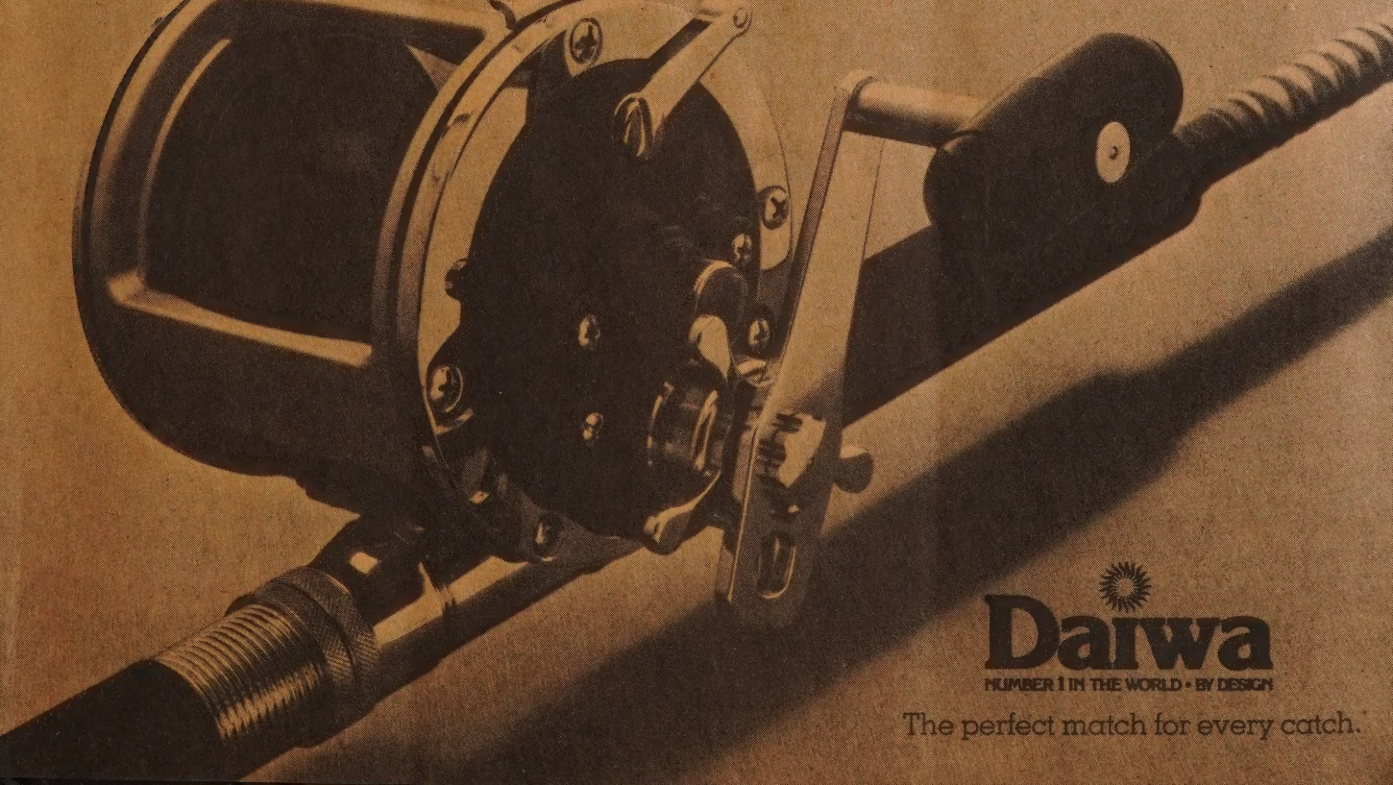
16,000 pounds of hard fighting ocean fish were caught on a single, light duty Sealine reel. The reel withstood this punishment so well, it wasn't even necessary to change the drag washers. Practically overnight, Sealine became a favorite with serious ocean fishermen.

This year we've added the new 30H reel for heavy freshwater and light saltwater fishing, and the 900H for extra heavy-duty angling. We've also added two new heavy-duty models with stainless steel spools. Now there are 12 Sealine reels that can be matched to Sealine, I.G.F.A.™ and T.T.W.™ Series Daiwa rods.

Ask your Daiwa dealer to match you up with our winners. For more information write: Daiwa Corporation, Dept. SE., 14011 South Normandie Ave., Gardena, CA 90249.



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Increase in Moonie Fleet

by Al Ristori

According to a recent press report, the Moonies are in the process of building 150, 28 ft. fiberglass boats which will be trailered to Gloucester in July for the summer giant tuna fishing. This religious organization (which is heavily into commercial fishing in many areas) already has a large fleet of handliners working for tuna in the Gloucester area, but the new boats will make a bad situation even worse. The high price of giant tuna has attracted such a crowd of handliners to Massachusetts Bay that there is hardly room for rod and reel fishermen any longer.

What's happened in Massachusetts Bay should serve as a warning to local anglers about the havoc that could be wreaked upon our fisheries. Giant tuna fishing to the north has been declining, while fishing to the south has been improving. If this represents a trend, how long will be take for some of that huge northern handline and harpoon fleet to shift their attentions to local waters? Considering the price involved, it could happen overnight should a big run develop off Block Island during the summer!

Last year there were quite a few fish off Block Island that were just under or just over the 315 lb. giant tuna dividing line. These tuna are probably survivors of the 1973 year class—the only big year class of bluefin tuna since the early Sixties. With a little luck, we may get a good shot of 350-400 lb. mini-giants this year—but what happens if the fishing to the north is poor and that 150-boat Moonie fleet starts fishing off Block Island in the summer? With just limited success, that fleet could wipe out the small southern quota within a couple of weeks! The result: no U.S.A.T.T. at Block Island in September and no giant tuna fishing at all in the Mud Hole!

Of course, all this is just speculation, but it's entirely possible—and I'd bet money on it happening if the fishing really never develops to the north. Quite a number of readers and various fishing clubs have written to NMFS Northeast Director Al Peterson over the winter in support of my proposal to restrict the southern quota to rod and reel. According to the figures supplied by the National Marine Fisheries Service, there was not one single giant tuna reported from the southern area on either a handline or harpoon last year. Therefore, there is no question of this proposal interfering with any historical fishery in the region.

According to a recent letter received from Peterson, the correspondence on this subject has led NMFS to include it as an issue in the next regulatory change phase. However, since any proposed regulation must be subject to extensive review procedures (called for by Executive Order 12219) at the Washington Level, the time frame will probably be in the area of 8-12 months. In other words, nothing will be done this year, though it remains imperative that we keep up the pressure. With this effort being well-publicized (it was even noted in the commercial fishing monthly "National Fisherman") any handliners or harpooners coming in this season won't be able to claim "historic" rights.

In order to ensure that we will have a rod and reel tuna season this year, I'm also writing to Peterson to determine if there is sufficient flexibility in the regulation to enable some of the northern quota to be shifted south should commercial activity develop in our area. Concerned anglers should express their feelings on the southern rod and reel quota with a short letter to Mr. Allen E. Peterson, Regional Director, Northeast Region, NMFS, 14 Elm St., Gloucester, MA 01930. Don't wait for the next guy to carry the ball: every letter counts!

Public Hearing Scheduled on Chapel Hill Dumping Project

Lou Figurelli's pressure seems to be paying off on the New York Harbor dumping demonstration project. Rather than just being pushed right through, Lou's persistent efforts have resulted in a public hearing scheduled by the Corps of Engineers at Wagner College, Staten Island on June 18, 7:30 p.m. At that time all the arguments will be heard and an intelligent decision can then be made on the proposal to demonstrate the feasibility of dumping contaminated fill in the deep pits dug out of West Bank and then capping with clean sand. Hopefully, by that time, there will also be reports from captains as to whether those pits produce any worthwhile fishing.

North Carolina Records Set in 1980

The North Carolina Salt Water Fishing Tournament awarded over 1800 angling citations and produced three new state records. A new flounder (fluke) standard was set by Harold Auten with a 20½ lber. taken at Carolina Beach. The Spanish mackerel mark was pushed up to 12¾ lbs. with a fish taken at Cape Hatteras Pier, while the gray trout (weakfish) record was advanced to 14 lbs. 14 oz. in the Nags Head surf. North Carolina not only plays host to many anglers from our area, but some of them also turn out to be tournament winners. Holding up local honors last year were Dick Rasmussen, of Carneys Point, NJ, with a 23 lb. bluefish at Hatteras Inlet; Doug Dorman, of Ridgewood, NJ, with a 53 lb. dolphin off Oregon Inlet; and Edward P. Murray, of Jamaica, NY, with a 38 lb. red snapper off Cape Lookout.

The largest fish in the tournament was an 816 lb. tiger shark boated off Hatteras, while other outstanding winners included a 97 lb. amberjack taken off Cape Lookout, an 81 lb. cobia caught at the Avalon Pier, and a 656 lb. blue marlin boated off Oregon Inlet. Only one striped bass over the minimum weight of 18 lbs. was entered, but that was a beauty: a 56 lber. hooked by Alice Jeffers in the Hatteras surf! According to North Carolina outdoor editor Joel Arrington, more awards were made for white marlin (525) than for any other species. That figure was up considerably from the 405 of 1979 and reflects the great late summer white marlin fishing that the Oregon Inlet area provides. Bluefish awards (minimum weight—16 lbs.) were also up, continuing a trend that started in 1978. Though spring channel bass fishing was excellent, the fall fishing was poor and the overall citation figure dropped. The only other category showing a significant drop was tuna. Arrington is particularly proud of the release figures. Fifty-eight of seventy-two citation blue marlin were released, as were 438 of the 525 whites, and 73 of 120 sailfish. The 1981 tournament is on now. Rules brochures are available free from North Carolina Travel and Tourism Division, 430 North Salisbury St., Raleigh, NC 27611 (919-733-4171).

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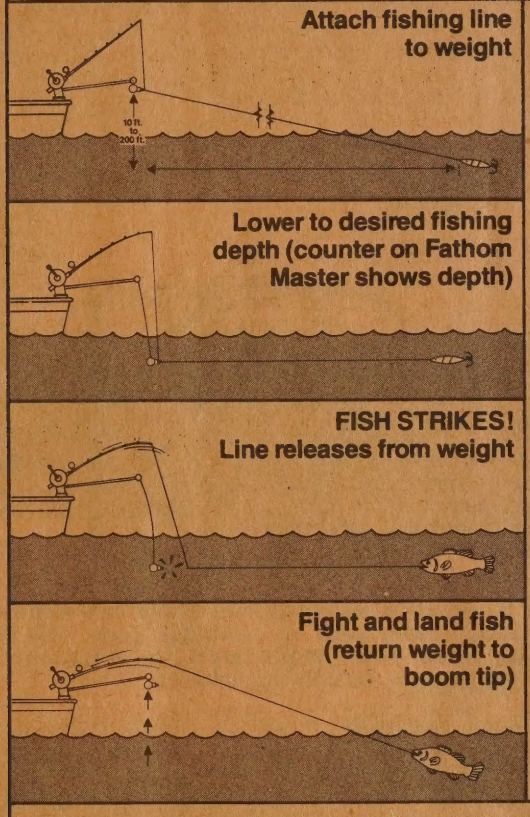
The Fathom-Master drag-brake system provides simple one hand operation of lowering and stopping weight/lure. Permits payout of cable if weight snags on bottom. Includes pulley and line guide assembly with full tracking capability. All metal and reinforced LEXAN™ and nylon parts. And dependable gear driver cable footage counter.


Attach fishing line to weight
10 ft. to 200 ft.
Lower to desired fishing depth (counter on Fathom Master shows depth)
FISH STRIKES! Line releases from weight
Fight and land fish (return weight to boom tip)

FEATURES

- You can lower weight to desired depth evenly, smoothly — has famous Penn drag brake control.
- Handle does not rotate while weight is descending.
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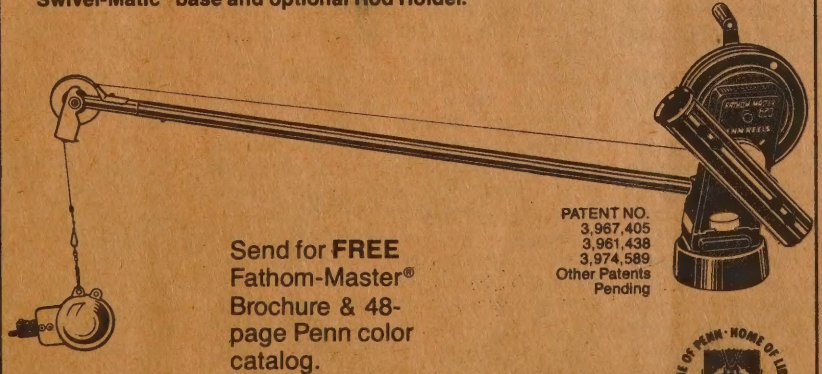
- Easy to mount, stow away, and remount on your boat.
- Models come with 200 ft. 135 lb. test stainless steel wire (400 ft., 600 ft. optional), 10 lb. Fathom-Trol® Ball Weight & mounting hardware.
- Model with 25" boom (#600—Shown) or Swivelmatic 48" boom (#620) which swivels 180° to make rigging easy.

MODEL 600
Features 25 in. boom with fixed base.

MODEL 620
Features 4 ft. boom. Comes with SWIVEL-MATIC® base that can rotate 180°!

New Rod Holder (610RH) available for both models.

Shown: Model 620 with 48" boom. Swivel-Matic® base and optional Rod Holder.



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BOATING TIPS

Trailering With Small Cars

by Bob Whittier

As one drives along America's highways today, the realization comes that a steadily growing proportion of the total number of cars one sees are the new, smaller ones. Their number is going to keep growing until the time comes—in not too many years—when people will turn and look every time they chance to see a large car go by.

Petroleum costs and the uncertainties of supply from overseas sources are forcing this sweeping change on American motorists.

Pondering this, one can wonder about the future of trailer boating. We have read everything we can find on the subject and offer the following appraisal.

It's reasonably safe to predict that we will continue to have trailered boats, but that the larger, heavier ones will lose the popularity contest to lighter rigs. Because the power of V-8 engines will continue to be needed in medium-sized trucks, school buses, ambulances and other vital rolling stock, Detroit will continue to offer pickup trucks, vans and four-wheel drive vehicles with such power. So those people who really have to have hauling power will be able to get it for some time to come—provided they can stand the cost of fueling V-8 engines.

But obviously there are many who will not want to continue to feed V-8 engines. We predict that more and more owners of larger outboard and smaller stern drive boats will be looking for space at marinas. They will sell their big cars and trailers and switch to light cars for shuttling between home and marina.

Those who wish to keep their craft at home on a trailer are going to have to learn what small cars can and cannot do in the way of trailer towing.

Where a large car with a V-8 engine in past years could easily tow up to 6000 lbs. and a medium sized car with a straight six engine could tow 2000 lbs., the general rule that is emerging from a study of downsized cars is that the smaller ones will be able to tow between about 750 and 1000 lbs., and the new generation front-wheel drive cars with larger four-cylinder engines and V-6 engines will be able to tow from 1500 to 2000 lbs.

It's no longer a simple matter of bolting on a tailored-to-fit hitch and hitting the open road. Many new and unfamiliar factors dot the trailering scene.

Their transmission gearing enables smaller cars such as this Volvo to pull surprisingly heavy loads up launching ramps. The problem comes at highway speeds, where engine power begins to run out at the same time wind resistance is multiplying rapidly.

The stout rear axle housings familiar with rear-wheel drive cars hold rear wheels in good and durable alignment. When steering and propulsion are combined in a front-wheel drive car, we have the power going from engine to wheels through a somewhat lighter, more complex drive train. How the new f.w.d. cars will stand up under regular trailering is anyone's guess.

Motor size is not always the deciding factor in trailering ability. When car speed doubles, wind resistance quadruples. So a small car can tow a low-profile trailer with less strain than one with large frontal area. High cabins and big windshields are going to have to come off trailered boats. The low gear on a small car having a four or five speed transmission is really low and can haul a boat up a ramp easily. But out on the open road, highway speeds can easily overload and overstrain a small engine due to the increasing wind resistance of a high and wide boat.

Big cars had plenty of reserve braking power. The small ones often don't have any more than is needed to stop a normal passenger load. Boaters are going to find that with some makes of cars, they can tow only small trailers of around 750 lbs. with no trailer brakes, but the installation of brakes—at some expense—will up safe trailering capability to around 1200 or 1500 lbs.

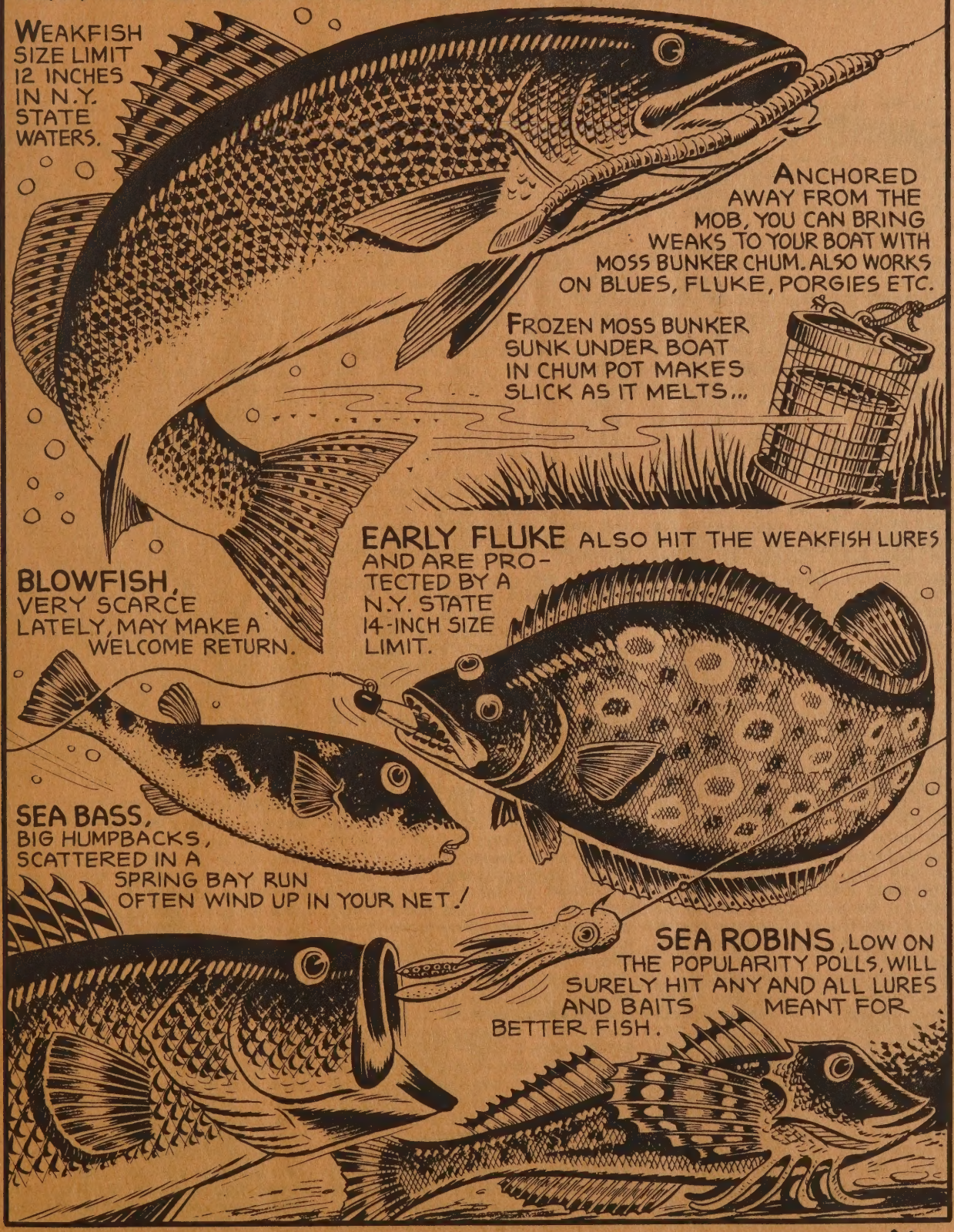
Due to warranty and product liability problems, small car makers tend to be leery of trailering. At this time, builders of some smaller imported cars don't approve of trailering due to uncertainties about how hauling will affect durability and hence the warranty situation. Safety is another worry for some car makers: "Bobtailed" small cars don't have much rear superstructure to which to affix a hitch, and gas tank puncturing in a rear end collision can be a matter for concern. The bodies of some framless, unit-body type cars have warped when they were fitted with "load leveler" hitches that put unexpected strains on the bodies. Trailering with some small cars voids the guarantees!

Best thing to do when buying a new small car is to ask the dealer to show you whatever literature the manufacturer has on trailering. If there is none, be leery, insist on the facts before buying.

MAY TIME BAY FISH

BY FRED GUARDINEER

WEAKFISH MAKE THEIR SPAWNING RUN IN MAY, BETWEEN THE GILL NETS, IN THE BAYS OF THE NORTHEAST, HITTING JELLYWORMS, JIGS, PINK SHRIMP, PLUGS AND YOU NAME IT. DRIFTING SANDWORMS ARE EAGERLY GOBBLED UP AS ARE SQUID AND CLAM BAITS ON HI-LOW OR CANARSIE RIGS OF YESTERYEAR.


WEAKFISH SIZE LIMIT 12 INCHES IN N.Y. STATE WATERS.
ANCHORED AWAY FROM THE MOB, YOU CAN BRING WEAKS TO YOUR BOAT WITH MOSS BUNKER CHUM. ALSO WORKS ON BLUES, FLUKE, PORGIES ETC.
FROZEN MOSS BUNKER SUNK UNDER BOAT IN CHUM POT MAKES SLICK AS IT MELTS...
EARLY FLUKE ALSO HIT THE WEAKFISH LURES AND ARE PROTECTED BY A N.Y. STATE 14-INCH SIZE LIMIT.
BLOWFISH, VERY SCARCE LATELY, MAY MAKE A WELCOME RETURN.
SEA BASS, BIG HUMPBACKS, SCATTERED IN A SPRING BAY RUN OFTEN WIND UP IN YOUR NET!
SEA ROBINS, LOW ON THE POPULARITY POLLS, WILL SURELY HIT ANY AND ALL LURES AND BAITS MEANT FOR BETTER FISH.

FISH TALK

BIG CITY QUESTIONS

by William A. Muller

MORE ON MOOCHING. I know that we have belabored this mooching business enough, but I don't want to forget any of you who were so kind to write in. Therefore, without details let me thank Ted Siedlecki of Levittown, New York, and Harry B. Morton, Jr. of Massapequa.

ON BAITS. From time to time we receive inquiries about the netting of bait in Long Island waters. Many of our readers are very concerned about this since they understand full well that their likelihood of taking game fish is directly related to the presence of bait in many cases. Thus, if the bait is harvested, they ask what becomes of the predators? Jack Mattera of Brooklyn expressed these very ideas recently. "I am writing to you in desperation that you may help to stop illegal netting of bait fish from the Jamaica Bay area between Dead Horse Bay and the Gerritsen Inlet fixed bridge. Every year during the past several years, the fishermen in the area have complained to the Conservation Department that a group of men at different times in the week and on Sunday mornings use a 100' to 200' net. They also use a rubber raft to make a wide sweep from the beach and out over a deep hole. When the net comes in, it's full of baitfish. After that there is no baitfish in the hole for two or three days. As a result, we do not catch any bass or blues. Last year I witnessed one group of netters that was caught red-handed by the Coast Guard only to be let off with a warning. These netters laugh at these warnings and they come back another day. A stiff fine or the confiscation of the nets is the only thing these these men will understand. Why can't a large sign be placed at the parking area stating the sizes of nets that are legal and illegal. This is the only good fishing spot that I can reach without a jeep and it is being destroyed by the netters."

CONTACT D.E.C. We used to fish the Jamaica Bay area years ago, but the years have dulled the memory and once familiar names no longer click. As a young boy I remember watching bait fish netters, so the harvest is not a new invention. The New York State DEC at Stony Brook told me that the maximum size for nets used in harvesting bait fish is forty feet long and four feet deep. Therefore, you are correct that 100' to 200' long nets are not legal anywhere during the fishing season. However, during the period between October 10th and December 31st of each year, any size net may be used to harvest baitfish. This netting is allowed southerly of a line from the lighted beacon at Manhattan Beach to the most southerly point on Barren Island and west of the Marine Parkway Bridge across Rockaway Inlet. You should also know that there is a 1980 amendment to the bait-fishing regulations that increases the size of the nets that can be legally used to take baitfish in Jones Inlet and Fire Island Inlet. The question of getting enforcement cooperation is another matter. I can tell you this. The law states clearly that Department of Environmental Conservation Officers and the State Police have the responsibility to enforce the environmental conservation law. I would suggest that if you observe what you believe to be a violation that you do two things. Copy down, with pencil and paper, any important information that might help to identify the alleged violators. This information may include boat numbers, car license plate numbers, a description of the people, etc. Then call your local Conservation Officer and the local police. Wait for them to arrive. When they arrive, insist that they enforce the law and not merely chase the violators away. Get the name and badge number of any officer that arrives. Insist on it before the officer takes any action. In this way should the officer not take every possible action to enforce the law, you can report the officer's failure to do so.

ANECDOTE. Luis Roman of The Bronx writes about his first trip. With the mackerel feeding in parts of Long Island Sound his story may be an inspiration to others to get out and fish. "My name is Luis Roman and I am 22-years-old. Once while I was looking out the kitchen window in my house I saw a man sewing something. It looked like a net. I asked him what he was doing and he said he was making a fishing net for his brother in Puerto Rico. I always loved fishing, but because I didn't know anybody locally who went fishing and because until recently I was too young to go fishing by myself, I really never got the chance to go fishing until I met Danny—the man making the net. Danny began telling me all about fishing. He showed me his fishing gear and showed me the different kinds of lures and hooks that he used for different types of fishing. He took me deep sea fishing when I was twelve-years-old, out of Sheepshead Bay. I was so happy to go that it was like a dream come true. When I saw all those boats and the signs above them I was astonished. We boarded a boat called the Flying D that was fishing for mackerel at the time. The boat took one-and-a-half hours to get to the fishing grounds. The very first time I threw my line into the water it went down about five feet and then the line went straight. My pole began to bend and I yelled: 'Danny, Danny, I've got something!' Well, I caught three big mackerel and they were so beautiful to me. Can you imagine how this made a 12-year-old kid feel?"

THANKS TO ALL THE DANNYS. Who knows how many young Luises out there have been brought into fishing by a man like Danny. Oftentimes, the Danny is also our daddy, but what if the young man has no daddy or if his dad just doesn't have the time to fish, or doesn't like to fish? An uncle or older brother may step in. Still we suspect that many times it is not a relative, but a fisherman who loves his sport and wishes to share his love and the fun he or she has with someone else. It is often hard to approach an adult because we are afraid of being rebuffed. However, who can resist the round-eyed and open desire of a young child. It is with young children that we can mold great sportsmen and people who respect the great outdoors.

MORE FROM BROOKLYN. Friend Barbara Herrera has written many times and we are usually struck by her good sense of humor and probing questions. In her most recent communication however, Barbara seems quite serious, leading us to believe that perhaps there is a hidden meaning to the question. However, we'll venture forth and then duck later. "Using the Sandy Hook tide table, would you please tell me how much time to add or subtract to get the correct tide when fishing at the Marine Parkway Bridge and the Cross Bay Bridge (sometimes called the South Channel Bridge) in Rockaway here in Jamaica Bay. I called the Coast Guard Station and they didn't even know—that's strange!"

CAREFUL BARBARA. A fisherman, in my opinion, should not consult tide tables as a bible since there are so many factors that affect the exact timing of the high and the

low tide. The tide, during all the years that I have been fishing, has been right on the money only once or twice. Therefore, I use the tables as a guide. For example, in your neck of the woods, the Beach Channel Bridge is listed as +38 minutes to Sandy Hook high tide. There are several potential complications. First, prolonged or strong winds from a given quarter will either accelerate or slow the tidal change. I have witnessed a delay in the tide of over two hours and I have seen it accelerated by as much as an hour. In addition, tide tables cannot list tide calculations for every spot in "the back" and, therefore, the fisherman must estimate the change in the tide at different locations or consult local experts. Local bait and tackle stores are the best source of this information. After years of fishing and doing business in a given area, they can tell about when the tide will change at many locations. Experience has also taught them how winds and other conditions like the moon phases might affect the tides. The Coast Guard is the worst place to check. Most of those boys are transplanted from Nebraska, it seems, and the first time they ever saw the ocean was when they were assigned to a given Coast Guard Station for training. In general, the farther back in an inlet you go, the later will be the tide change. A fisherman who works a given bay is encouraged to keep a log and learning about the tides is one very good reason why. Once you have fished a spot for several years and kept notes, you'll be able to make your own assessments. Perhaps my explanation is less than totally satisfying, but I believe that tide tables should only be used for estimating your arrival. Also remember that times of high and low tide do not coincide necessarily with current changes and our fishing success is more closely related to currents than to the tide. Begin by chatting with a local bait and tackle dealer. He or she can tell you about tides and currents in the places you fish. Then keep a log so you can help others. Good fishing.

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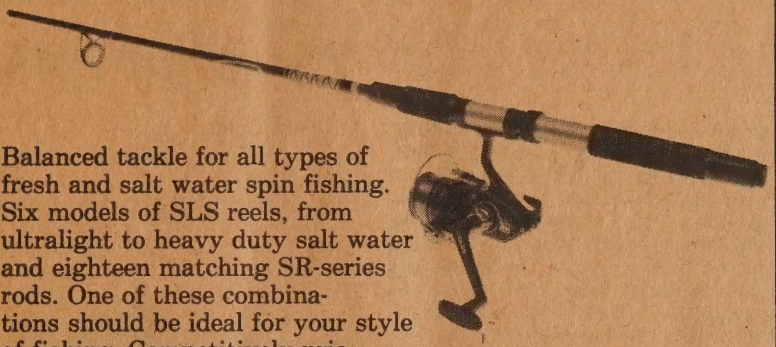

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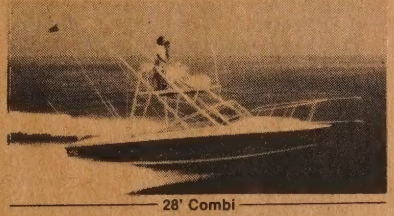

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Quiet Nights, Gentle Fishing

by John Fritz

For some it is but a brief respite from the resolute fishing done in the high surf, while for others it comprises a major portion of their entire season. Whatever your philosophy, seeking weakfish in the placid waters of Long Island Sound is one of the highlights of any fishing season. True, there are many other aspects of surf fishing that causes the adrenalin to flow and the heart to pound, but stalking weakfish on peaceful summer nights is a method of surf fishing suited to calm the gentle soul and ease the tensions of living in modern society.

Weakfish can be caught in many different ways: from the elbow room-only type fishing along the banks of the frigid waters of the State Channel in early May, through the summer baitfishing with 11' sticks in the ocean surf, to the hectic fishing of the fall run with darters under Montauk's famed lighthouse. In most of these instances, the weakfish is outclassed by the tackle being used. This is the major reason why the tranquil waters along Long Island's North Shore are ideal for pursuing these spotted beauties.

Disregarding such spectacular runs as that which occurred at Asharoken a few years back, solitary anglers quietly working favored locations along the Sound shore will enjoy decent action coupled with the added bonus of being able to play the fish on light tackle. The serious surfman is benefited by the casual angler's uneasiness in fishing after sunset. The majority of anglers will leave the beaches with the onset of darkness, allowing the shallow waters to return to their undisturbed state. Under such conditions a knowledgeable fisherman can stealthily practice his sport unhindered by a thoughtless novice, for there are a few actions which are considered detrimental to this type of fishing.

Of major importance is the careless use of lights since a sudden flash of brightness will frighten any fish cautiously prowling the shallow water near shore. In a similar aspect, unnecessary splashing will also chase these wary fish into deeper water. There are occasions when game fish will forsake their timidity and feed without regard for noise or sudden lights, but by practicing a quiet technique you can generally improve the catch.

Although loud talking and other noise when not actually in the water will have little effect on fish swimming nearby, it is a good practice to stop and listen every so often when walking the shore. Frequently the presence of surface feeding fish can be discerned by their telltale splashing or the spraying of bait. It would also be wise to keep an eye on the water for ripples or some sign of fish, seen in the sheen reflected on the water by the moon or some distant illumination. Baitfish, especially when still alive and stranded along the water's edge are definite clues to the presence of game fish in the vicinity.

The idea behind these thoughts is that a successful fisherman is constantly alert to all signs which may indicate the presence of fish. Much like the hunter who stalks his prey from the minute he enters the woods, the surf fisherman should be on the lookout for any clue which will aid in his search for fish.

There are two techniques which are practiced by anglers plying the shores of the Sound. The first and most popular is to concentrate on the most productive areas. Favored rips, bars or points of land are sought and the entire time fishing is spent in one spot. The other method, which covers more ground, is to wade a short distance into the water, cast and walk slowly until fish are located.

Weakfish begin making an appearance in Long Island Sound waters in the latter part of May with decent fishing to be had about June 1. The key to good surf fishing lies in the presence of sufficient quantities of bait close inshore which will draw the fish to the beach. Last year the sand eels, and therefore the weakfish, remained in deeper water affording excellent action for boat fishermen but creating a disaster for shore-bound anglers.

When sand eels are the predomi-

nant bait, lures such as the Eelworm and Whiptail account for many fine fish. These lures are especially effective in the twilight hours with many anglers favoring the switch to the plug teaser combination in full darkness. The 3/4 or 1 oz. Eelworm in either red or amber are most often chosen when seeking North Shore weaks. These rubber lures are allowed to settle to the bottom from where they are leisurely retrieved with an intermittent raising and lowering of the rod tip. The rate of retrieve for the Whiptail can be increased somewhat while continuing to provide a similar rise and fall to the lure.

A sizable percentage of the surfmen engaged in this type of fishing prefer to use swimming plugs. Rebel type lures, either in the 4½'' or 5½'' versions, are most often used, but variations in this broad classification can frequently mean the difference between success or failure. For instance, on a sandy bottom or perhaps in an area not littered with too many underwater obstructions, a sinking plug will provide excellent results. When a strong rip is encountered, straight bodied swimmers such as the RedFin or Hellcat are chosen for the force of the rushing water amplifies the lure's action. If existing currents offer little help in increasing the plug's action, then a broken-back swimmer is often the key to success. The added action of the swinging tail section produces a tantalizing action which weakfish find hard to ignore—especially on those flat, windless nights so prevalent on the Sound in the summer months.

Color choices vary according to the success achieved by the individual anglers, but no one can find fault with silver-sided plugs. The newer type Rebels have a smooth shiny finish which seems to produce better results than their prototypes. There is a certain segment of the surf fishing clan which swears by the color yellow and, of course, a solid black plug on moonless nights is hard to beat.

It is common knowledge that the addition of a teaser greatly increases the chance of success when seeking fish such as striped bass or weakfish. Feathered teasers have been a standard accessory in many surfmen's plug bag for several years. Although the color yellow continues to be a great favorite, most North Shore anglers are satisfied with the results achieved by white feathers. In the past year or so a new addition has found favor and that is that soft-bodied imitation of a sand eel, the Red Gill. The four inch version of the Red Gill when used as a teaser will, on many occasions, produce a better catch than feathered teasers.

As stated previously, this type of fishing is conducive to the use of light tackle. One-handed rods equipped with a reel similar to the Penn 716 will offer the greatest possible excitement when battling these stubborn weaks. Unfortunately, it is often necessary to use a slightly heavier plug when casting a plug-teaser combination; therefore, greater versatility can be gained by choosing a somewhat stouter outfit. Another reason for selecting an outfit such as a 9' light action rod equipped with say a Penn 710 is that on occasion the plug will be seized by a cow bass that will intrude upon the assembled weaks. Ultra-light tackle offers slim hope of subduing an enraged bass that seems headed for the Connecticut shore.

At this stage of the article many of you might be thinking that I've covered just about everything but the where. Although the North Shore of Long Island encompasses many miles of waterfront not all of it is accessible and a great portion is unproductive. What is accessible to certain town residents is closed to outsiders especially during these summer months. Aside from the state parks at Wildwood, Sunken Meadow and Caumsett, whose passes would have to be obtained before reading this article, I can offer little help except to say check it out on your own. A lone car parked on a deserted road will often go unnoticed whereas several cars would attract immediate police attention. Seeking access to these beaches can be disheartening at times, but after a method has been discovered the opportunity to try your skills fighting weakfish from deserted beaches will make all the effort seem worthwhile.

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SINKER BOUNCING

FLUKE BASICS

Part Two — *by Matt Ahern*

Last week in Part One, those necessary tackle requirements, plus how to rig terminal gear, the use of live killies, and the preparation of sea robin strips for best fluke-fishing results, were discussed. This article will add a bit more on baits, and as promised, ideas on drifting, trolling, and how to fish for doormat fluke on offshore wrecks. All these methods are the result of over fifty years' fluke-chasing. They work. Had they failed to do so, they would have immediately been put into the discard to suffer the death they so deservedly earned. Therefore, while those methods which follow may seem offbeat to many, you can rely on them to produce fluke for you.

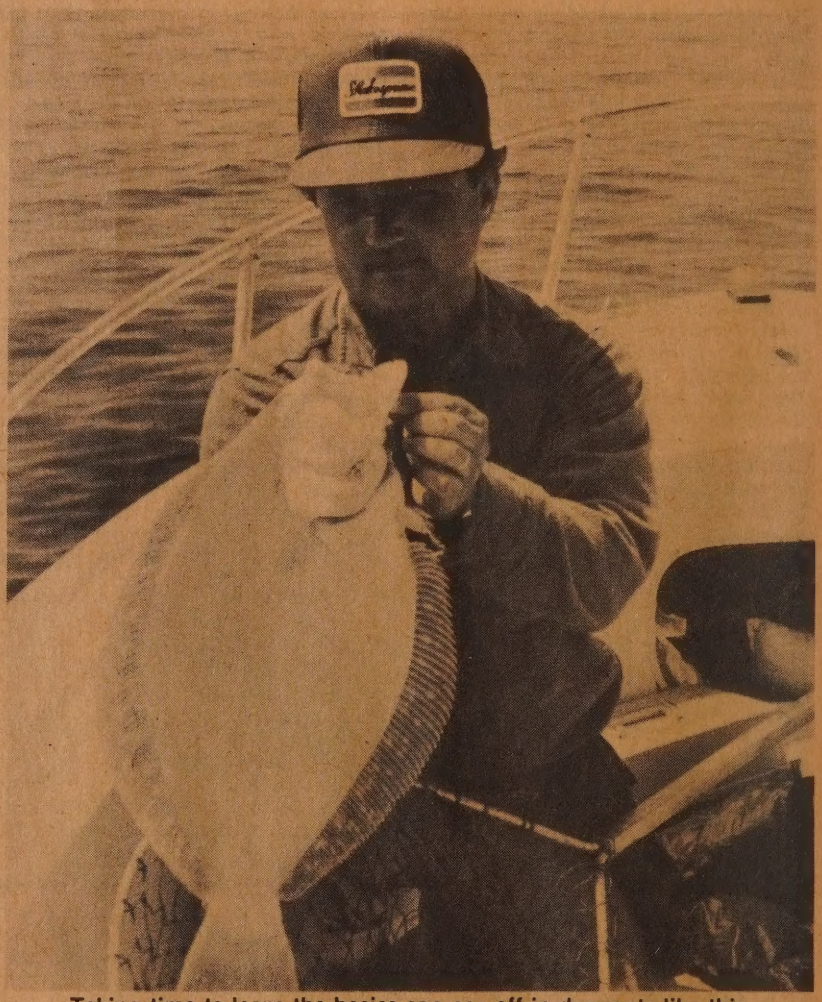
So, with that, let's take up where we left off last week.

Fresh spearing, sand eels, and live snappers are all excellent fluke bait. These bring best results when hooked once through the head and allowed to stream naturally from the hook. Strip baits such as squid and fluke belly are fished in the same manner as sea robin.

I'm aware some fishermen frown on this once-only hooking method, claiming doing so makes it easier for fluke to steal bait. I agree with them on that. But it doesn't bother me in the least. Any angler who wishes to may purchase or make a two-hook arrangement by tying or soldering a smaller hook near the eye of the larger hook and catch those foxy short-biters. But I prefer to give the fluke a chance to outwit me (it adds more spice to the game, too). Therefore, I bait up as stated.

I'll grant you that in the beginning those fishermen who use this method may miss a fish or two until they learn to control their reflexes and acquire the finesse needed to sink the hook at the precise moment. But once that sensitive touch is attained, not only will their share of fluke increase, but the catch of other bottom feeders needing a delicate touch—such as cod and blackfish—will greatly improve.

Fishermen can never be certain which bait fluke may consider most attractive on any given day. And this leads to much experimentation by dedicated fluke anglers. I know these are the fellows who will try anything if they believe it has a chance of success. Many years ago I knew several fluke sharpies who drifted six inch strips of raw beef liver through the deepest holes in Jamaica Bay. I'll admit they didn't catch many fluke, but this did not bother these boys in the least. When they did connect, few fluke were under six pounds and many were in the ten to fourteen pound range. If experimenting is your strong point, you have a world of opportunity awaiting you.



Taking time to learn the basics can pay off in doormats like this.

The fact that fluke must be hunted and that they will seldom accept a dead line is often overlooked by novice fishermen. I've seen these fellows select a likely-looking spot, toss over an anchor, and then sit all day getting little or no action, while the surrounding area was steeped in fish. However, a chum pot filled with ground mossbunker or canned fish-flavor cat food bounced on bottom occasionally to dispense the goo into the current will help draw fluke in this instance.

But doing this also has its disadvantages. It is likely to draw an abundance of sea robins, dogfish, and that persistent pest—the toadfish. And once these undesirables home in on the easy pickings, the chances of catching an appreciable amount of fluke are greatly reduced.

Drifting is a better method and is much preferred by most veteran fluke fishermen. This is because fluke normally lie in narrow lanes along choice feeding areas, their bodies buried and eyes exposed, patiently waiting for some luckless bit of prey to pass by. The only way to locate

these areas is by drifting. Once the first fish is hooked, a small buoy is immediately tossed over-side to serve as a reference point. Repeated drifts are then made in the general area. It is surprising the amount of fluke experienced fishermen catch with this method. It may take a little effort to locate one of these fish-feeding lanes, but once found, action is guaranteed.

Trolling in shallow water (three to four feet) is a method seldom used by fluke fishermen, and for the life of me, I don't understand why. Trolling often produces the most action of any method currently in use; sometimes the results are spectacular. I personally know two fluke hunters who ran an experiment in Island Park's Schaeffer's Creek several years ago. I watched from shore and kept tally as they trolled continuously in one confined area and hooked and released 131 fluke in one morning.

When trolling I've found it best to use a medium-weight conventional rod with a stiff tip. This is needed to combat the strain put upon it by the boat's movement. Many good spinning rods have been ruined due to much trolling. Boat speed should be comparable to a brisk walking pace. This will keep the bait slightly above bottom and highly visible to prowling fluke. It is seldom necessary to set the hook—the boat's momentum is usually sufficient.

Shallow water fluke are spooky and trolled bait should be trailed about forty feet behind the boat. When making a return run over the same area, the circle must be wide enough to avoid passing over the line.

Rigs and baits for trolling are the same as for other fluke fishing, with a two ounce bank sinker just right. Preferred baits are live killies and squid strips. White or yellow bucktails, with or without the added inducement of a squid strip, will also put fluke in the bucket if the boat's speed is reduced and the lure kept hopping over the bottom.

Scores of sunken wrecks dot the ocean floor off Long Island's South Shore, their barnacle-encrusted bones providing sanctuary and food for many varieties of young fish. Doormat fluke know this and have an affinity for such places. Experienced fishermen interested in these large fluke know that late summer and early fall are the best times to cash in on the opportunities these wrecks afford.

Wreck fishing for doormat fluke is exciting sport. Fishermen never know how big that next one might be. The largest fluke I've seen caught tipped the scale at 19½ lbs. and came from a New Jersey wreck. Ten to twelve pounders are not uncommon. My largest doormat to date is one of 14 lbs. and came from the Steel Wreck situated ten miles south of Jones Inlet.

Because this wreck fishing is rugged, sturdy tackle is required. It isn't necessary to employ codfishing gear, but a rod with backbone is a must. The power and surge behind one of these giant fluke is breathtaking. I find a medium-weight conventional rod equipped with a matching reel capable of holding 200 yds. of 20 lb. test monofilament is ideal. Some fishermen use 40 lb. test, but I've never had trouble with the lighter stuff; it also allows me to use six to eight ounce bank sinkers.

Rigging is no problem as it's the same as for smaller fish, but all components are on a heavier or larger scale. The hook should be a 5/0 Carlisle. Don't substitute hook style! The Carlisle is long-shanked and aids in easier removal. When fishermen sink a long-shanked hook into a doormat, they are always thankful for this feature. The teeth in that cavernous mouth are not only wicked-looking—they're downright scary!

If a three-way swivel is used, it should be no smaller than 3/0. I use a 20 lb. test leader and have never had difficulty landing my fish. Leader length is important around wrecks. I have had more success using one of four feet instead of the customary length of three. The longer length is difficult to find, but when an ordinary snelled hook is added to one of three feet, it will be close enough.

From personal experience, I don't believe there is a better bait for doormats when wreck fishing than a strip of dogfish. Large fluke simply cannot resist it. Summer doggies are not as plentiful as those horned dogs caught in fall and winter; therefore, when one is landed, the wise fisherman uses it. Simply slice off both sides and cut into six inch strips, one inch wide. This may look overlarge to fishermen—but not to a doormat fluke!

It is important that bait be kept hopping in short spurts. When weight is felt, allow slack and let the fish munch a bit. Don't be in a hurry! It is never necessary to set the hook. The fluke will take off the instant the bait is down and do it for you. Be prepared for a merry time. Doormats are extremely powerful and you'll have your work cut out for you.

The best way to fish wrecks for doormat fluke is to drift along the outside edges. This is the method many party boat skippers use and it is highly recommended. When anchored over a wreck, the best procedure is to cast out as far as possible and work the bait back. If casting is taboo, as when aboard party boats where fishing must be done straight up and down for safety reasons, plenty of action must be put into the bait by jigging.

Long Island may no longer be the fluke fisherman's paradise it once was, but the fish are available for those who know how to go about it. Given the opportunity, it is only the foolish fisherman who doesn't take advantage of it.

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FISH 'N CHIPS

by Eileen Regina

One of the most popular fish dishes in the entire world may very well be the old English traditional fish and chips, if not through direct consumption then by association via various stories and movies. Think back to when you saw your last English movie or any movie depicting life in urban England, such as "Jack The Ripper" or any one of the many Sherlock Holmes movies. Wasn't there usually some old lady selling fish and chips from a pushcart on a fog-shrouded street, or some Cockney dispensing them from a greasy shop? Yet, aside from the Arthur Treacher franchises here, this dish is all but unavailable to us unless we prepare our own. It is an easy dish to prepare and can even be dispensed in newspaper cones, a la tradition, which should make a big hit with the kids. Follow along with us and see how your gang likes it—chances are that you will be making it on a regular basis soon afterwards.

Besides providing great fun, flounder are an ideal ingredient for "fish 'n chips."

Ingredients (Serves 4):

THE FISH:

2 lbs. of halibut, cod, or flounder fillets
juice of two fresh lemons
1 small onion, grated

THE CHIPS:

3 lbs. of potatoes

THE BATTER:

1¼ cups unbleached, all-purpose flour
1 tblsp. table salt
1 - 12 oz. bottle light beer, room temperature

FOR DEEP FRYING:

1 cup flour (place on plate)
1 tsp. table salt
Oil: enough to cover a depth of two inches in a deep fryer, a heavy cast iron pot, or a wok. An equal mix of lard and safflower oil gives the best flavor, but all vegetable oil may be used.
ground black pepper to taste

FOR SERVING:

Squares of newspaper, about four layers per serving. Paper towels may be used for the faint-hearted, but lack authenticity.
Malt vinegar or dark cider vinegar in a shaker bottle
salt & pepper to taste
paper napkins

Prepare the potatoes first so they have a chance to soak off some of their starch before frying. Peel them and cut into good healthy fries—real chips are never thin and delicate. Cover them in cold water and let soak for an hour, changing the water two or three times.

Meanwhile, cut each fish fillet into four pieces, roughly three inches square by one-half inch thick. Place pieces in a large, flat, non-metal bowl or platter, mix gently with the lemon juice and grated onion and let stand and marinate at room temperature.

Open the beer and pour it into a separate bowl. As soon as it flattens, gently whisk in the flour and salt until a smooth batter forms, then let this sit for awhile too.

In about an hour, pre-heat your oven to 250° and heat the oil in the deep fryer on top of stove to 375°. Line some cookie sheets with paper towels to drain the fried fish and potatoes.

Drain the potatoes very well and roll them in paper towels, patting them as dry as possible. Deep fry them in batches, keeping the oil temperature steady, and turn over each batch with a slotted spoon at least twice. Fry for five to eight minutes, until potatoes are golden brown and very crisp. Drain on paper towels, salt well and keep warm in the oven while frying fish.

Mix the teaspoon of salt and a generous amount of ground black pepper into the cup of flour on the plate. Roll each piece of fish in the flour, shake, dip into the batter until well coated, and deep fry in two or three batches at a constant 375°. While frying, turn each piece gently with a slotted spoon for about five minutes until they become crusty, puffy, and golden brown. Break into one piece to make sure fish is thoroughly cooked. Remove fish and drain on paper towels; serve immediately along with the fries.

For extra crisp fries, don't salt them initially but return them to the hot oil for a minute after the fish has been cooked, then drain again and salt. For each serving, heap the fish and chips together on four squares of newspaper, wrap loosely or shape paper into a cone, and serve piping hot to four of your loved ones. Have vinegar and salt and pepper ready at the table and sprinkle 'em on as you enjoy your traditional English fish and chips.

THE WEAK THAT WAS!

by Don Sheehan

For those of you who may have read "Surfcaster's Lament" in the October 16, 1980 issue of The Long Island Fisherman, I want to assure you that I am still an avid surf fisherman. However, about eight years ago I became acquainted with sailing and this fish story (which happens to be true) took place while I was enjoying a leisurely sail on the Great South Bay at least three-quarter miles from the nearest fishing gear.

Strange events occur in all aspects of life; some people relate these occurrences to the phases of the moon and the motion of the stars and planets. Others claim Divine Intervention as the cause of strange or unexplainable happenings. The event I am about to relate to you was, in my opinion, completely related to timing, one of Newton's Law, and a hungry weakfish. The man in the long robe with the beard—who walked past my sailboat 3/4 of a mile offshore had nothing to do with the event I am about to describe (no disrespect intended).

It was July 5, 1977, a lovely summer day: sunny, temperature in the mid-70s, with a light northwest breeze—a perfect day for a sail in my 50-year-old sloop the "Pixie." As we left the Sayville Yacht Club, I mentioned to my 13-year-old son and his friend Matt, that I wished I had brought the fishing gear along as the wind velocity offered perfect trolling speed.

Well, we sailed out of the marina and headed southwest toward the reef buoy (#31) about a mile off Blue Point. We were on a "broad-reach," a very comfortable point of sail for that day, as I noticed the clarity of the Bay. Baitfish were visible and being spooked into jumping by our slight bow wave—again, I wished I had brought along my "combat gear."

As we rounded buoy #31, I heard a loud splat and I asked the boys if they saw anything. Nope, just some swirling in the water. We were now on a heading of about 80° and those "splats" became more frequent. It was about 1PM on this beautiful day when it happened. The sun did not spin in the heavens, there was no clap of thunder or flash of lightning, the sky did not darken—a 10 lb. weakfish simply jumped into my sailboat.

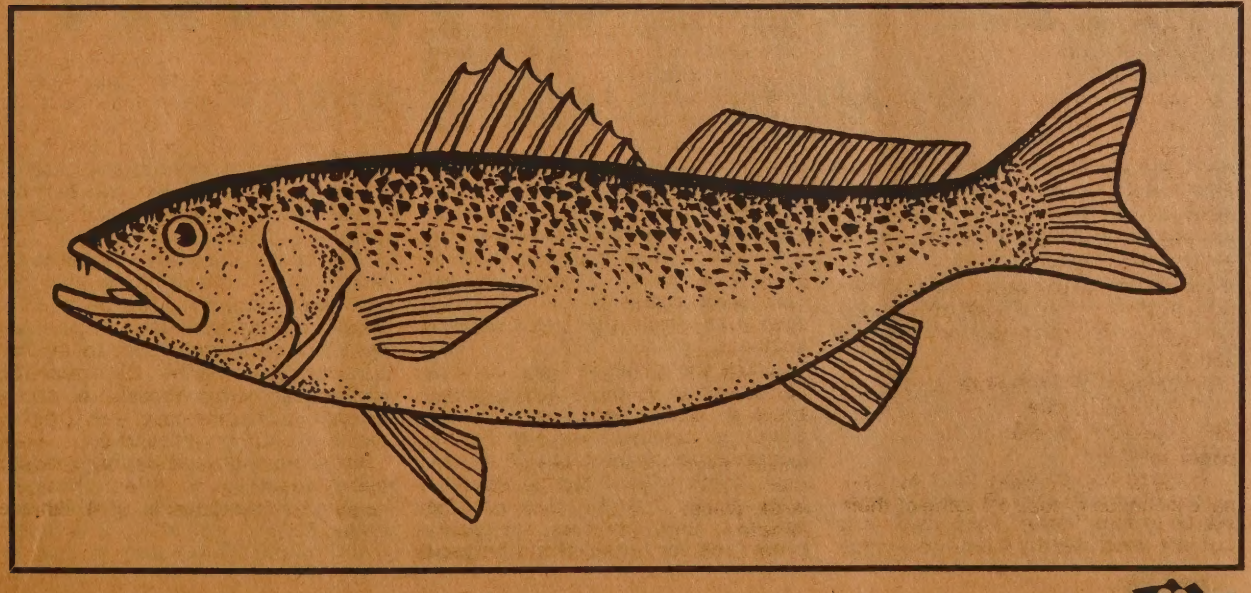
Three bug-eyed sailors watched as if in slow motion, this beautiful fish rose over the starboard side and fell into the cockpit. We were drummed back to our senses as this weakfish beat a "crazy rhythm" on my floorboards. In sheer "self-defense," I was forced to do this lively fellow in with my Boom Crutch (used to hold up the Boom when not under sail). As I removed fish scales from my hair, this fellow was really jumping around, the first thought I had was "how am I going to explain this one." I am a light drinker and not prone to hallucinations—in addition, I had two eyewitnesses, fish scales in my ears and the prime evidence bleeding all over my new Topsiders.

Back we sailed to the Yacht Club and when I laid that beauty on the bar and told my story, I had the feeling one might get when he tells the members of the Brick Layers Union that cement is being replaced by hardened marshmallows. A somewhat hostile feeling surrounded my fish and me; as my beauty oozed all over the bar, I could sense that for some strange reason, my old buddies could not quite believe me.

I was even given permission to bring into this shrine of "Members Over 18 Only," my two under-aged eyewitnesses. With the coaxing of a coke and hamburger (they knew they had me on the spot), they related the entire story, themselves producing fish scales from some unlikely places on their persons. Well, after an hour of attempted explanation it was useless to go on. I could see that there was a move afoot to call the men in the white coats, so I gathered my prize and stole off to the freezer.

The very next day redemption came swiftly. I arrived at the Club and avoided as many members as I could, as I "sneaked" down to my sailboat. When I was just about ready to sail out of the marina, one of my friends who just yesterday vowed to visit me after the men in the white coats took me away, came running onto the floating dock shouting to get my attention.

It seems that he was fishing that morning from his 18' Marshall "Cat Boat" when—not one but two weakfish broke water at the same time chasing bait. These fish leaped high enough to be level with his free board. He spread the word and my image was restored. However, even now, several years later, I occasionally get a strange look and am requested to relate my story. I think they are still trying to "weaken" my credibility.



CHANGES FROM WEAK TO WEAK

by Martin & Janet Garrell

We'd always known that weakfish were cyclic. Still, when we were introduced to the Peconic run during the torrid year, 1974, there was always the hope that the fishing would remain that way, that on the right days of the week on the right tides, one could go out on Southold Bay or the two Peconic Bays forever and catch weakfish in the spring sunshine until one ran short of time, lures, or energy.

The 1974 season was like that, and 1975 as well. Plastic shrimp-type lures, tipped with squid, caught fish; squid strips caught fish without the plastic shrimp; and sometimes the plastic shrimp caught fish without the squid. We often caught fish on the most outlandish items in the tackle box, too, such as a green hula skirt wrapped over a little mackerel jig tipped with squid. That little number provided a cooler of weaks on one memorable occasion!

But times have changed dramatically over a five-year period. By 1980 most East End sharpies had to scratch hard for fish as the cycle wound down. The reasons for such a decline are never clear. Do we abet a crash by over-exploitation of spawning stocks in those peak years? Has commercial pressure from traps, gill nets, and offshore dragging played a large role in that over-exploitation? Is the crash a natural, unavoidable phenomenon? Or have the weakfish populations simply shifted southward into more normal ranges? Friends on the DelMarVa Peninsula were apparently wallowing in "grey trout" during the past two seasons. Whatever the reasons, the handwriting on the wall says that lean seasons may now be the norm on Long Island, and certain marine biologists are even predicting that there just won't be a "run" in the true sense of the word in 1981.

Still some anglers will always catch spring weakfish in the Peconics. Flexibility and adaptation are the keys to their success, and a visitor to these waters would be advised to tear a

page or two from the diaries of those who were successful in the past couple of seasons.

First of all, except for a very few days, the daytime action just doesn't seem to be there. Throughout most of May, even though you could still walk from boat to boat in places like the South Race or Jessup's Neck, most anglers were flailing their way through a mighty slim pick, a fish or two per angler per day. The solid catches of fish usually hit the docks before 9AM; these were weaks that had been taken by fellows who fished the owl and graveyard tides during the night and before dawn.

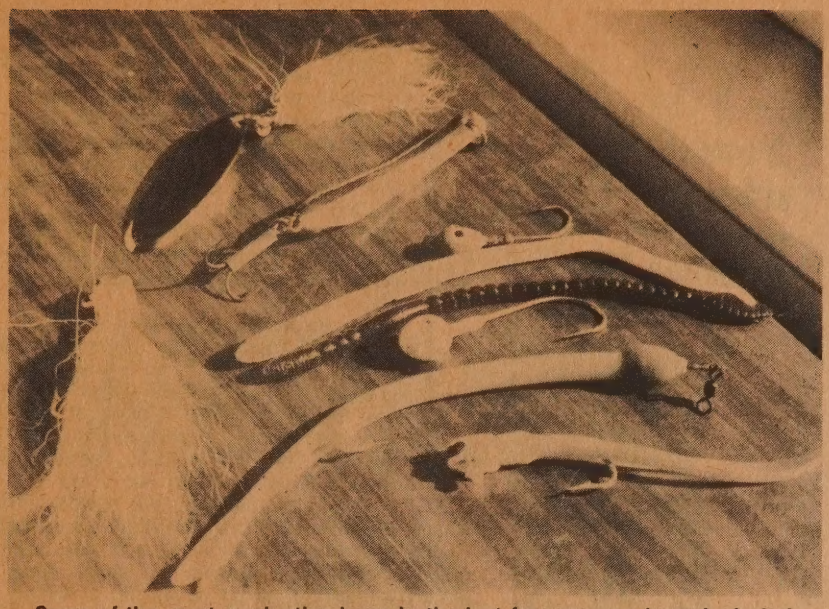
When we queried some of the most successful anglers in the 1980 Peconic Weakfish Tournament, held last May 17 and 18, their opinions were nearly unanimous. "You've got to forget your own hours and go when the fish are there," remarked Tony Regula, Jr., who was out on the Bay by 3AM on both days. Of such sacrifices are the best catches made. Regula and his partners, the Velys from Aquebogue, took a 10 lb. 1 oz. and a 9 lb. 6 oz. fish and placed third and fourth in the tourney. Also, as far as night tides are concerned, the Greenport party boats Brand X and Peconic Star, as well as the Wilhelric out of Sag Harbor enjoy some fabulous outings in late May and early June between dusk and midnight.

Still, if one happens to be satisfied with an hour or two of action and a couple of quick fish, it suffices to catch the turn of the tide around dawn, as we found out just before Memorial Day off Jessup's Neck last season. We'd checked with the Manarels, Frank and Red, and made sure we could meet and launch by 5AM on a Friday morning. After heading for a spot we'd hit on the same dawn outgoing three years earlier, we flicked our lures overboard on the first drift by 5:30. Within a minute three of our party of four were "in," and within ten minutes two weaks totalling twelve pounds were beating tattoos on the fish box; the third weak tore loose. Action continued for two hours until the tide turned and other boats moved in. By 7:45 the fishing was over.

The reader may wonder why we have not mentioned fishing the other end of the day, the twilight, with small craft. Frankly, we've gone that route and have been blown out too many times. Unless you have plenty of boat under you, afternoon southwesterlies tend to make the Peconic Bays awfully rough on most early and mid-Spring evenings.

The wise weakfish angler will pack a variety of lures until the fish show a preference on a particular day. In the early and mid-1970s, Bagley Salty Dogs and Touts in hot pink were the turn-ons; by 1977, we had better catches on white and yellow bucktails; and in 1979 and 1980, no other lures could match the jig-head and wormtail or the weighted tube on most

(Continued on next page.)



Some of the most productive lures in the last few seasons have included the following: Kastmaster diamond jig, plastic worms with weighted heads, bucktails, and the WMJ tube lures.

Marty shows off a brace of weaks taken one night off Robin's Island.

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days. Grape and cherry were preferred worm flavors, while hot red-orange and cherry red were the normally effective tube hues. According to one logical theory we have heard in recent seasons, the weakfish have shifted their feeding habits over the years and have moved from shrimp to squid to sea worms. Lure changes seem to bear that out. Naturally, scenting any one of these lures with a squid tip enhances their effectiveness.

For those who score best with bait, it may pay to pack a few boxes of sand worms along with fresh squid. High hook sands and sands fished three feet below a clinch sinker or drail produced some of last season's best catches from the South Race and Rose's Grove. When we tried that concept ourselves, we made the mistake of fishing Middle Grounds and Jessups instead, and we went through 24 worms in short order without hooking a single weakfish. Sea robins, if present in numbers, will come a long way off the bottom for a luscious sand worm, and we had no intention of spending for a half flat of worms just to make up a bouillabaise with robins.

Later in the run, toward the end of the spring, when the fish are moving east around Shelter Island, it's a good idea to throw a couple of two to four ounce diamond jigs into the tackle box. There are times during the last weeks of June when the action is faster on diamonds than it was on bait and plastic worms during May. Drifting and jigging in fifty to seventy feet of water in spots like the Southold Bay Brickyard, a fisherman can find this type of weakfishing to be particularly challenging. Having spawned and then resumed feeding the weaks can be tough fighters. We were surprised last year at the stubborn resistance offered by these deep water, late-season fish. One 7½ lber. kept us busy for almost twenty minutes with a grinding, up and down fight that completely fooled us. Had we dropped that weak without seeing her, we would have guessed that we had been working on a weakfish double that size, maybe even on a large bluefish. On the matter of dropping fish, heavy jigs with large hooks present real problems in deep jigging for weaks, because of the ease with which those hooks and flailing hunks of lead tear through the tender mouths of **Cynoscion regalis.** Therefore the best practice is to work the hooked fish smoothly with a drag setting on the light side and to avoid sweeping pumps with the rod. Ten pound gear is perfectly adequate.

One predicament the Peconic weakfisherman now faces as the weakfish decline in number is the persistent emergence of small bluefish as competitors for every lure. Blues in the two to five pound class chop apart jelly worms, sever light lines with bucktails attached as well as mono leaders with baited hi-hooks, and become a general nuisance for weakfish addicts. Unfortunately there is little that can be done except to carry lots of spare rigs and to suffer the choppers. Some anglers go to short wire traces, but, in clear water, that's a questionable strategy because weaks tend to be leader shy. Lately we've noticed that, by going to long lures with rubber tube tails (like the WMJ lures obtainable from Warren's Tackle Center in Aquebogue) rather than those with soft plastic tails, we can catch blues right along with the weaks and not do any damage to tackle box or pocketbook. No small blue has yet succeeded in getting its fangs above the eye of such a seven or eight inch lure, though that day will eventually come.

Perhaps Peconic weakfishermen will get used to the new situation in time. Now that spring fish sizes have begun to slide back to the four to six pound class and now that more anglers are enjoying the smaller summer run fish, some of the mania on the Peconic scene may subside. So heavy became the pressure to boast of gargantuan fish that large numbers of unweighed six to eight pounders grew to tens and twelves in sealed fish boxes. Tournament weighings produced a true picture. A ten pound fish was exceptional and anything over twelve was extremely rare.

Some fishermen may turn to older, more peaceful ways and may find it pleasant to pick at a few fish away from the maddening crowds. There may even be a resurgence of the time-tested technique of chumming with grass shrimp. Is this still effective? One New Suffolk gentleman in his nineties, Captain Tom Flurry, has used that technique since his youth, and, as of this writing, he still scores as well on a per hour basis as any of the local sharpies.

To put the run and the prospects for the future in perspective, look at these lines from **McClane's Standard Fishing Encyclopedia.** They were written before 1965 by Bill Wisner of Roosevelt, New York.

"The average size of the weakfish has declined. Today the approximate length-weight range is 10-12 inches and 1/2-1 pounds up to about 21-23 inches and 3-4 pounds, with a possibility of 25-27 inch specimens in the 5-6 lb. class in some areas. Once anglers caught early-autumn 'tide-runners' which weighed up to 11-12 lbs. Old-timers who fished the Peconic Bay region of Long Island, one of the greatest weakfishing areas of all, recall specimens up to 15 lbs. in the heyday of that fishery... But the era of those large weakfish appears to be over."

Maybe someday, in our lifetime, the cycle will soar upward again as it did in the early 1970s. Whether it does or not, it will always be exciting to fish for the weakfish whenever they are available. For best results, of course, it'll be crucial to check the scene annually and to keep up with the changes from weak to weak.

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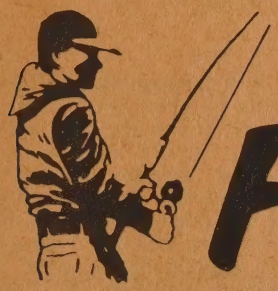

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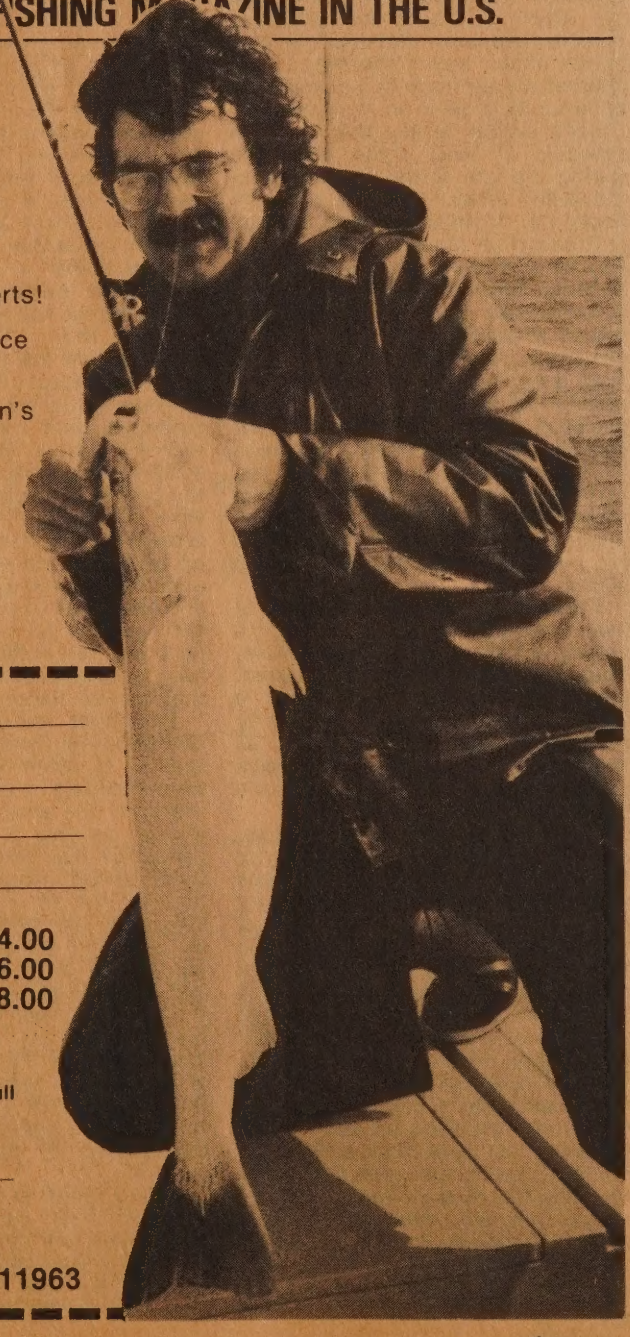

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Spring Grab Bag

by John V. Konior

Perhaps only rivaled by the fall season, the months of May and June offer some of the finest fishing to be had here on the Island. By May, the flounder season is still in swing; other species such as weakfish, fluke, blackfish, and bass start showing up. Cold water species such as cod, whiting and ling can be pursued. Even mackerel and porgies are in evidence. The issue is, "What do I go out after?" This is not an easy question to answer. Being primarily a south shore bay fisherman, I've adapted my approach to maximize the opportunity to get in on this grab bag.

Let's suffice to say that I try to schedule at least three weekends during the late spring to partake in the action offered offshore on party boats; i.e., Montauk for cod; Captree or Freeport for mackerel; Sheepshead Bay for a mixture of blacks, whiting and ling. Beyond those three junkets, I concentrate my fishing in those waters adjacent to the Wantagh and Meadowbrook Parkway bridges. This area provides some fine bottom fishing action for flounder, fluke, blackfish and weaks. With my boat docked in Seaford Harbor, I've found it unnecessary to venture far in order to do quite well in getting my share of these species. The only exception might be making an occasional trip out to Captree when the weakfish run starts.

The key to any outing at this time of year is to bring along enough of, and a variety of bait, and to employ chum. These factors are especially important when you're going out after a variety of species. Most of my fishing methods involve fishing from an anchored boat, but there are occasions when I will drift. We'll get into methods later.

In the bait department, worms, clams, and mussels are best for flounder. Tip the barb of the hook with a kernel of corn after baiting for best results. Use a 1-1½ inch piece of worm, leaving 1/4" dangling; a thin slice of clam 3/4" to 1" long; a glob of mussel. Try combining baits on one hook when all else fails. Squid and sand worms are used for weaks, but I've caught them on killies as well. The high hooks on either rig are used for weaks. Use a 3-6 inch slice of squid, one inch at the top and tapered to a point, and/or a whole sandworm. For fluke squid, sand eels and killies head the list. Note however, that I've caught fluke on sandworm and clam as well. Attach a killy, and/or a strip of squid, or a sand eels, and/or a strip of squid on the hook for best results. Blackfish have a fondness for fiddler and green crabs, clam, and sand worms. At times I've caught more blackfish using sand worms and clam than crab. The disadvantage of these baits is readily apparent when pesty bergalls are around. Attach a fiddler crab on one hook after removing its large claw; a half or quarter of a green crab depending on its size, or a piece of clam or sand worm.

Chumming is a sure-fire way to attract a variety of species to your boat. You can get away with using one chum pot by combining crushed mussels and ground bunker, or you can use two chum pots. Corn can be scattered around the boat for chum, making sure you toss it sufficiently upstream so it settles either directly below the boat or just downstream of the stern. There are two schools of thought concerning chumming. Some anglers prefer to use a chum pot, stating that the purpose of chumming is to bring the fish to the boat, and not to feed them. The other group believes that the chum ought to be scattered about the boat. In my opinion, they are both right. I'll use a chum pot when the current is swift, and will use a chum pot and will scatter chum around the boat when the current is sluggish. Both methods work. The overriding factor on many occasions is whether the chum ends up attracting too many crabs to the area. This can be a severe detriment, and could lead to your expending bait very quickly. As such, there are no hard and fast rules to follow. You'll have to experiment on each trip, but that is what makes fishing what it is.

The most important matter to address when fishing for a variety of species is planning. Regardless of where I choose to fish, I check the tide charts for the area. This is especially critical because I try to plan my fishing for blackfish around the slack water period, usually one hour prior to and after or a total of 3 hours. When you fish bridges for blackfish, as I do, you'll notice that currents are particularly swift and your success will diminish as the current picks up. If you really want to concentrate on blackfish on any given day, then extend your time to two hours prior to and after slack water. Slack water is the time to enjoy a snack and make ready to re-position the boat to compensate for the turnaround in current.

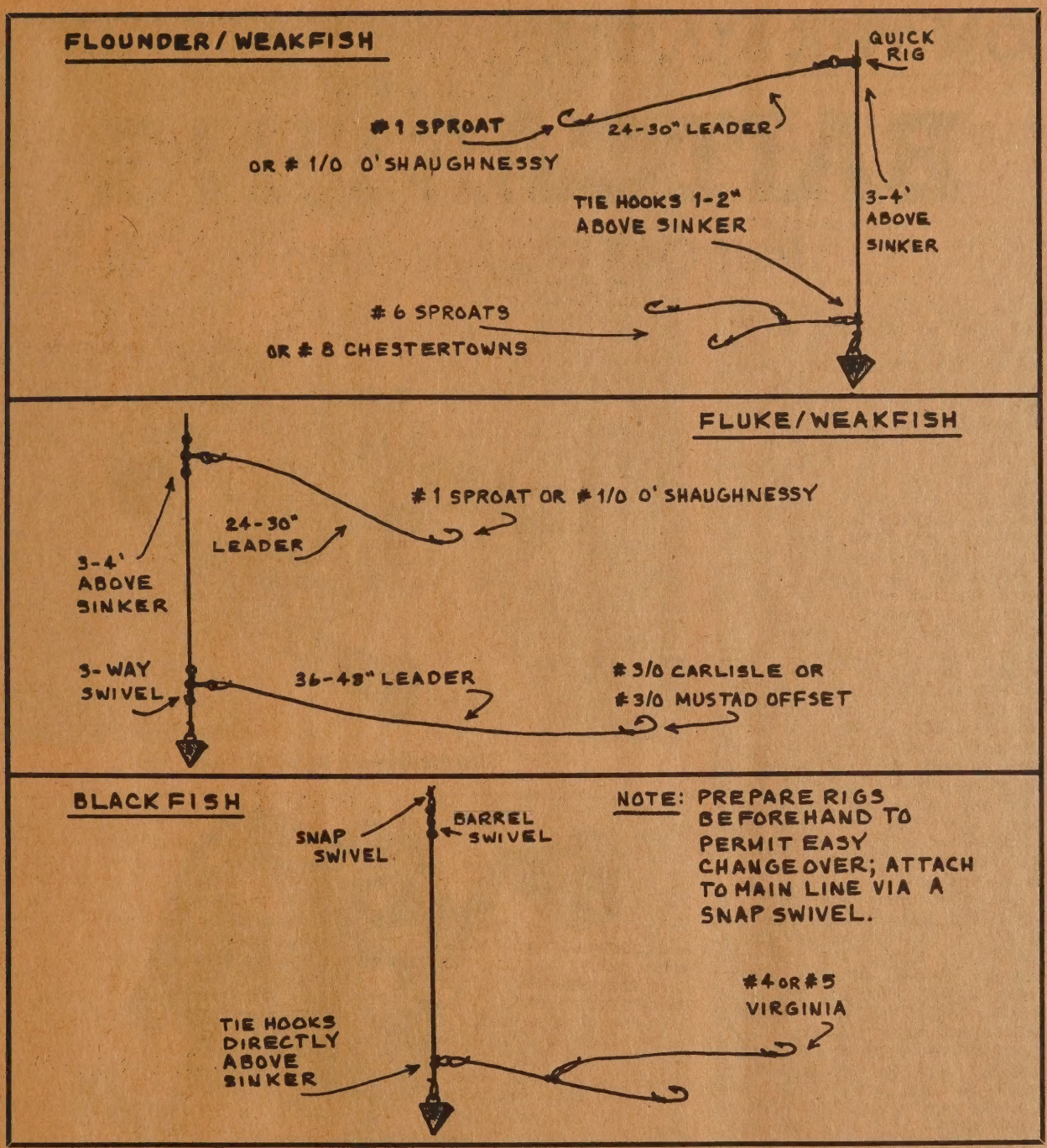
What I prefer to do, however, is to fish for other species until slack water, then sail to my favorite bridge during the slack, fishing the first two hours of the tide for blackfish. It's important to keep in mind that there can be a considerable difference in time as to when slack water occurs between different locations. For example, there's over a two hour difference between Seaford Harbor and Jones Inlet. This time differential must be taken into account when moving from location to location.

I've experienced a great deal of success in anchoring my boat in a favorite location and chumming liberally. This practice may raise a few eyebrows, particularly if you're after fluke and weaks. However, it's worked for me and should for you. Once I get to my spot I'll anchor the boat, tying off the anchor line on a mid-ship cleat. This practice prevents the boat from swinging in the current and/or wind. I then get my chum slick going. I'll set two chum pots, one with crushed mussels, the other with ground bunker, lowering them to the bottom on the up current side of the boat. This allows the pots to settle close to the middle of the boat and doesn't interfere with your rigs, or present a problem of a fish becoming entangled with the chum pot when reeling it in.

Patience is required in this kind of fishing. Don't get discouraged if you don't get fish in the first half hour, or so. You have to give the chum a chance to work. It's a good idea to replenish the chum every half hour to forty-five minutes. Either add chum to the pot(s), or dump the contents overboard, and start with a fresh supply. If you're not into fish after an hour, then it may be best to move on.

Once the tide approaches slack water, I haul everything up and proceed to my favorite blackfish haunt, attempting to time my arrival just when the current is starting to move. I prefer anchoring up-current from the bridge so that my stern faces the bridge. In this case, I will set my anchor from the bow. I try to get within 5-10 ft. of the bridge. When I have another fisherman aboard, I'll have him tie off a line around an abutment from a stern cleat. This practice will eliminate any swing. You can also try this if you're alone, but it's a bit tricky and depends upon wind velocity and direction plus boat traffic.

I try to fish as close to a piling or abutment as possible. Start off using crabs for bait, then switch to sand worm or clam. Although most blackfish around the south shore bridges are small (2-5 lbs.) you will pick up an occasional lunker going to 10 lbs. For this reason it's also a good idea to keep a landing net handy. As soon as the current picks up (1½-2 hours after



slack water), I up anchor and move on again. Obviously your spot selection will be governed by when slack water occurs. If it's towards the end of the day you may want to finish the trip with blackfish.

When looking for flounder and fluke, as a general rule, deep holes are best, and you are going to require a depth finder to locate them. The only other way to find them is trial and error via lowering your anchor into spots found by carefully scrutinizing navigational charts. The most productive areas for flatfish are: In Swift Creek just north of Sloop Channel, along the western edge just off the row of summer cottages (there are several holes going to 25' in the area); in Sloop Channel west of the 3rd Meadowbrook bridge, along the north shore in 20' of water; east of the 2nd Wantagh Causeway bridge, along the south edge of the island in 25' of water; at the westernmost end of the Amity Channel: one spot just north of Wansers' Cut near the red channel pole marker (south edge) in 20' of water; the other spot at the eastern end of the channel by West Island along the south edge in 15' of water; in the State Channel in holes just east of Zachs Bay and by Tobay Beach; just east of the first Wantagh Causeway bridge almost mid-channel in 35' of water; near the grass catcher just southeast of Massapequa Cove in 25' of water. As you can see you have quite a choice of spots. The areas I have described have all produced well in the past.

As far as blackfishing is concerned, I prefer the second Wantagh bridge, the third Meadowbrook, and the Fundy Bay bridge (Pt. Lookout connecting bridge). Obviously I'll try to fish in the general area to minimize sailing time.

Tackle should be kept on the medium action side, using either spinning or conventional gear according to your preference. Rods of 6' to 6½' in length and reels capable of holding 150-200 yards of 15 to 20 lb. test are well suited to this fishing.

Try timing your bottom fishing this season with blossoming lilacs and Memorial Day parades and see if you can't come up with a worthwhile prize from the "spring grab bag."

ON THE MARKET:

BAITCASTING

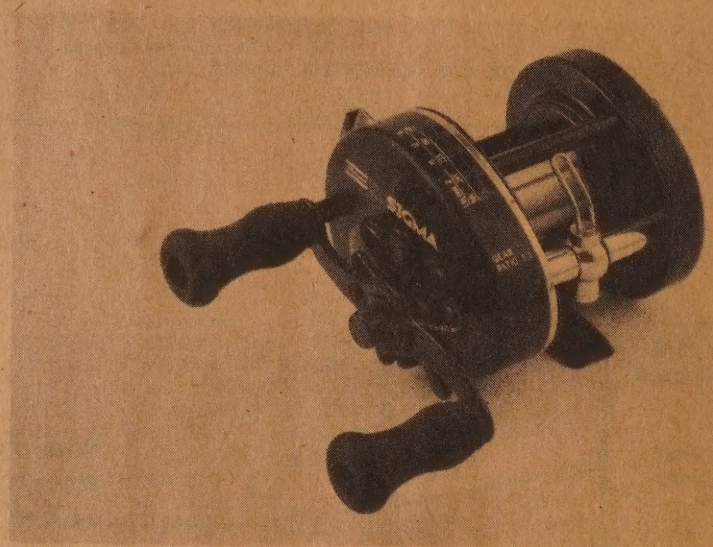
Part One — *by Al Ristori*

While many local saltwater anglers look down on baitcasting tackle as something used only in fresh water, the fact of the matter is that this gear is as much at home in the briny as in sweetwater ponds. If you don't believe that, just ask Captain John DeMaio, who's caught more big stripers with "little" Ambassadeur reels than most pros will see in a lifetime. Furthermore, baitcasting reels are standard inshore saltwater tackle in many other areas of the country—particularly the Gulf Coast.

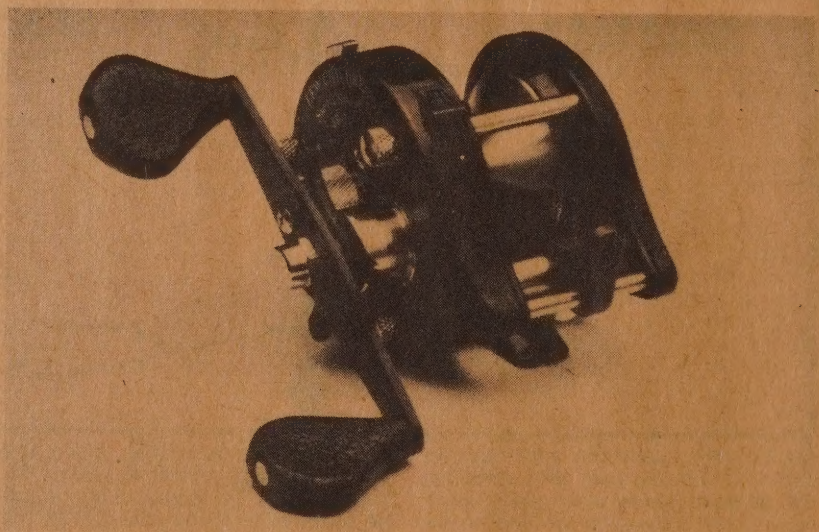
Baitcasting reels have revolving spools and star drags, just like the larger "conventional" models that most boat fishermen in this area use. Indeed, there is no basic difference between these types of reels. The differences are subtle, but make for a big difference in price. Baitcasting reels have relatively small and narrow spools that require level wind mechanisms in order that the line may be placed on the spool properly. These reels are finely-tuned casting tools which won't take the abuse often handed out to conventional reels—but are made of materials that will hold up in saltwater.

Baitcasting reels are made for exactly that purpose: casting baits or lures. I also use them for light bottom fishing and jigging, but the extra expense involved probably doesn't justify buying them for any other purpose except casting. Freshwater bass anglers have found that there's no substitute for either the pinpoint accuracy possible with baitcasting tackle, or the power that gear provides when a big bass must be pulled out of tight cover. In saltwater, the same reels can be used on longer, two-handed rods to cast 1/2 oz. bucktails into shallow water striper hangouts, or to work a Darter or Mirrolure for tarpon and snook.

Inexperienced anglers are often reluctant to get into baitcasting due to the fear of backlashing. While that is a very common problem, it's quite easy to overcome with modern baitcasting reels. These models have both mechanical and centrifugal braking systems designed to prevent "professional overruns." Once the reel is properly adjusted, no thumbing of the spool is necessary until the lure hits the water. The mechanical adjustment isn't difficult either. Start with the lure at the tiptop, and adjust the brake knob until the lure can just "walk" down with the reel in free spool.



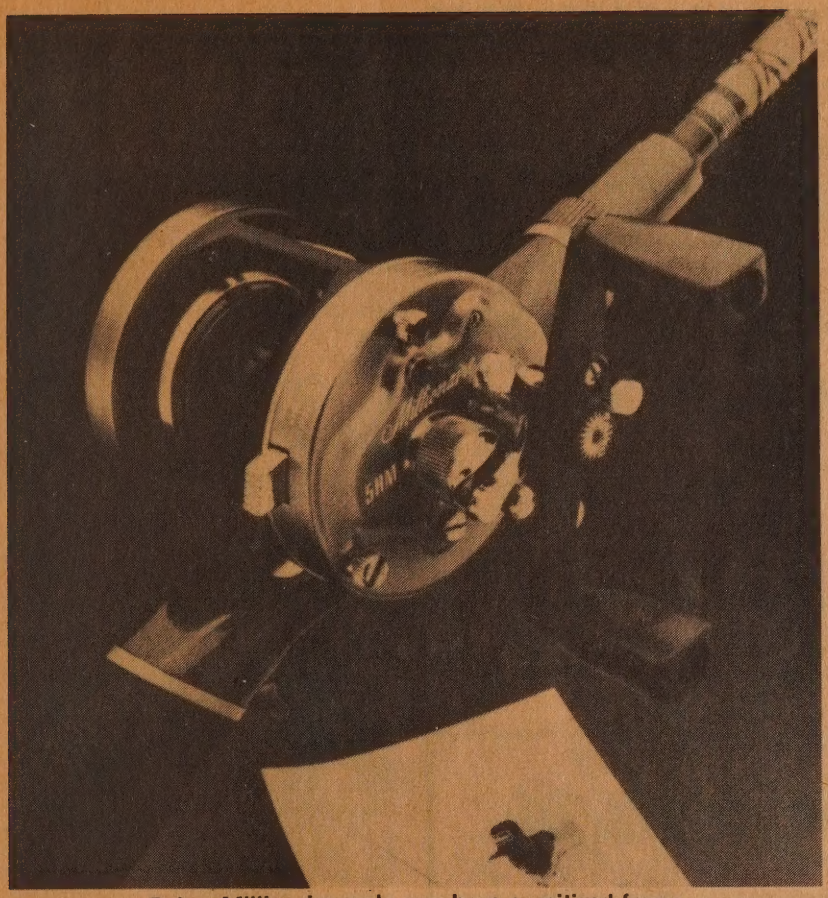
New Shakespeare Sigma 0001 reel.



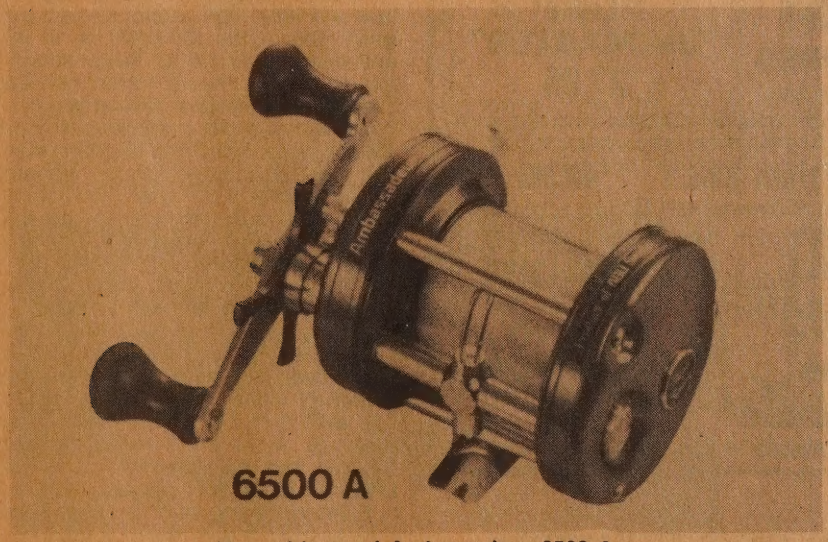
New Lew Childre BB-1N with "V" spool.

Baitcasting is the one area where cheap products have virtually been eliminated. Virtually any reel you're likely to find in a tackle shop will be of high quality, and will almost surely cost more than $50. The Garcia Ambassadeur reels from Sweden used to "own" this market, but there's now plenty of competition. It took a long time for the Japanese manufacturers to tool up for this market, but they're now coming on strong with innovative products.

The trend in recent years has been to ever smaller baitcasting reels. The freshwater bass angler discovered that he didn't need the capacity supplied by the standard Ambassadeur 5000 size, and could be more comfortable casting all day with a lightweight, narrow spool model. The latter have now taken over a good bit of the market. Another popular innovation has been the smooth left side plate. The Japanese discovered that by simply moving the mechanical brake knob over to the right side



Daiwa Millionaire reels now have a unitized frame.



New wide spool Ambassadeur 6500-A.

plate, they could provide a smooth left side plate that made for comfortable palming. Also relatively new is the disengaging level wind used on many narrow spool models. This cuts down on friction during the cast, but isn't practical on wide spool models due to the severe angle at which the line would come off.

Virtually all baitcasters use a button to go into free spool. An exception is the Fast-Cast Thum-Bar system used on some Ambassadeur reels. A large plastic bar extends across the bottom of the reel. Just press it down with your thumb and you're ready to cast. This system eliminates the need to use your left hand and is quite practical—though I've found it less reliable in saltwater than the standard Ambassadeur free spool button. Gear ratios have increased sharply during the past decade. Most of the better freshwater models are now at 4.7:1 or better.

Saltwater anglers will be better off ignoring some of the latest innovations and sticking with the larger capacity reels. Those reels provide the versatility necessary in situations where big fish may be encountered, and a few extra ounces of weight is of no concern when you're casting with a two-handed rod.

The big excitement this year has been created by the arrival of the "V" spool. Both Lew Childre and Ryobi are bringing in these revolutionary spools from Japan, and they claim that backlashes will be a thing of the past as a result. The supposed advantage of the "V" spool is that there isn't the weight of the mass of line on the bottom of the spool to keep it turning as the cast is completed. This is a particularly big move for Childre, as they've discontinued their old BB reels, switched suppliers, and designed a completely new reel. The BB-1N is a low profile "palming" reel with three stainless steel ball bearings, 16 point pick-up for instant engagement, and disengaging line guide. The spool is machined from solid aluminum stock, and the tolerances are close enough for 8 lb. mono to be used. Retail should be in the $80 area. A larger BB-2N is catalogued, but probably won't be available for some time.

Daiwa has made a big move in this field by adding a third series and making some basic changes in their Millionaire line. The new lightweight Prolite series is available in both ball bearing and sintered metal bushing versions, with the former retailing in the $55 area and the latter at around $45. All Prolite models feature disengaging line guide, 4.7:1 gear ratio, palming side plate, and four point pick-up. The narrow spool PL1000 and PL100 weigh only 7.9 oz., while the slightly larger PL1500 and PL150 each weigh 8.6 ounces. Saltwater anglers will be more interested in the fact that the Millionaire series has been modified so that all models now have a unitized frame for strength and precise spool alignment. In addition, there's one new model, the 6RM—a powerful (3.77:1 gear ratio) 12 oz. reel carrying 240 yds. of 12 lb. test. The top-rated Procaster series also has one new model, the 9.9 oz. narrow spool SM-1A. That reel holds 110 yds. of 10 lb., has a 5.18:1 gear ratio, disengaging oval-shaped aluminum oxide line guide, palming side plate, soft handle knobs, and stainless steel ball bearings.

Abu-Garcia is still the biggest name in this field, but they didn't make many changes this year. Two new Thum-Bar models are the narrow spool 4600AL (lightest of all Ambassadeurs at 8 oz.) and the standard capacity 5600AL. These reels have smooth left side plates, but lack the self-centering line guide featured on the 4600CB. Saltwater anglers can check out the new 6500A, which holds 325 yds. of 12 lb. and is less expensive than the ball bearing 6500CA. Garcia also has the largest baitcaster of all, the Ambassadeur 7000. This model weighs 15.7 oz., has a 4:1 gear ratio,

(Continued on next page.)

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and holds 275 yds. of 20 lb. I've found it to be a fine reel for deep jigging, and some pros have used them for big stripers in the Cape Cod surf. The only problem with this reel is that the drag washers don't hold up under severe saltwater use.

Shakespeare hasn't forgotten the baitcasting field with its Sigma introductions. The Sigma 0002 weighs just 7.8 oz., yet carries 150 yds. of 12 lb. The Sigma 0001 weighs 8.1 oz. and holds 212 yds. of 12 lb. Both have 5:1 gear ratios. Features include graphite bearings and a drag system which Shakespeare claims provides over 200% more drag surface than comparative models. The President models are retained, including the large 1984 (12 oz. - 265 yds. of 15 lb.) that gets high marks from deep jiggers for the ruggedness of its spool.

Shimano has been expanding their baitcasting line rapidly, with a seventh model being added this year. The Bantam 1000 is a little jewel that appears to be the lightest baitcaster on the market at a mere 6.8 oz. Yet this tournament bass reel carries 160 yds. of 12 lb. and has a 4.8:1 gear ratio. Stainless steel ball bearings are featured, and the gears carry a three-year guarantee. Like all Shimano Bantams, the 1000 has a disengaging line guide. Saltwater anglers will be more interested in the Bantam 400 (240 yrds of 12 lb.) and 500 (317 yds. of 12 lb.), two rugged models of stainless steel construction.

Ryobi's "V" spool is going into the new AD 5000. That model has a 5.3:1 gear ratio, holds 100 yrds. of 14 lb. and weighs only 8.6 oz. Retail should be under $100. I haven't tried the new reel yet, but Ryobi's first effort (the AD 6000) was very successful. The 6000 has a unitized frame, two sealed ball bearings, brass gears, smooth left side place, 4.6:1 gear ratio, holds 200 yds. of 15 lb., and weighs just 8.8 oz. Best of all, I found it to be very comfortable to cast with.

Pflueger was once the leader in this field, but they dropped far back in recent years. The famous Supremes are gone, but they're making a comeback bid with the Supreme Bassman models. The DL weighs 8 oz. and has stainless steel ball bearings, while the S model weighs 7.8 oz. and has graphite spherical bearings. Both carry 120 yds. of 15 lb.

Penn is holding with its Levelmatic line, and Quick with their Champions. However, Olympic is entering the quality baitcasting field for the first time with the BX-21. The new reel weighs 9.7 oz., has a 4.7:1 gear ratio, and holds 150 yds. of 12 lb. Features include two stainless steel ball bearings, brass drive gear, smooth left side plate, and an "anti-release" system. The latter is a lever above the clutch button which is pressed to put the reel in gear, rather than turning the handle.

Next week, we will resume our discussion of baitcasting gear as we take a look at rods.

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VIKING FLEET	JIB FLEET	CAPT. BILL	DOROTHY B	APACHE	Capt. CLARK II
MARLIN IV	Capt. BOB JOSEPH	SUPER SPRAY		EVER READY	CASEY LEE
	Capt. SCOTTY	ALOMA II			WILHELRIC II
	Capt. BEN LITWIN	STARSTREAM II			COMMODORE
	CAPT. ROD				

MONTAUK
★ BEST BET ★
COD

Capt Wayne King of the charter boat **King Wayne** called to say that Friday's charter cleaned up on pollack up to 32 lbs. Saturday's trip for the Squadron Anglers fished Block Island and caught pollack, cod and also some blues that bulled their way in. Sunday's charter for Newtown Line Anglers fished south of Block and caught pollack and cod on diamond jigs and also on clam in 80' of water.

Star Island Yacht Club informs us that the Lori J had 26 pollack Saturday up to 38 lbs. on diamond jigs fishing SE of Block. Beginning anglers Ira Bard and 8 yr. old son Dave scored with 3 blues one day, 20 pollack to 25 lbs. the next day followed by 35 pollack up to 35 lbs. the following day over this past weekend. They were deep trolling with down riggers and swimming plugs SE of Block. Lots of pollack around and also a few cod. Fishing on his boat Horizon Sunday, Ron Parpaglia accounted for 45 flounders up to 2 lbs. on corn and clam bait at Tobacco Lot. Blues in the 12 lb. class are starting. Watch for details coming up shortly on Star Island's Second Annual Montauk Tuna Tournament scheduled for Sept. 12th and 13th.

Charter boat **Christina II** asked us to let you know that Capt Fritz Riege will be co-captaining the boat along with Capt Bob Bozek.

Charter boat **Barracuda** with Capt Gary at the wheel, just completed two pollack charters. They scored with a respectable catch of 20 pollack in the 25 to35 lb. range taken south of Block on umbrella rigs. The codfishing has slowed down but flounder catches remain respectable.

Capt Joe McBride of the charter boat **My Mate** has been having successful flounder and blackfish trips at Tobacco Lot on clam. Joe also had some big pollack fishing south of Block Island and he says he still has some choice spring dates available.

Capt Phil Lewis of the charter boat **Adios** reports his first bass of the season was taken aboard the boat along with 8 others. On Sunday a fulll day charter scored with a total of 12 stripers in the 20 to 30 lb. class. Herring bait was employed. The skipper feels that the bass are just starting to come in and it may be a very active spring bass run. The pollack fishing is excellent south of Block.

Capt Mike of the charter boat **Montauk** called to say that the pollack run has started south of Block Island with fish up to 35 lbs. Bluefish are mixed in and a few bass are showing at the Point with more and more in evidence everyday. Diamond jigs appears to be the way to go.

Gone Fishing Marina reports that the flounder fishing on the weekend was very good at Tobacco Lot, Rocky Point, Shagwong, Outer Shagwong and Gin Beach with flatties up to 3½ lbs. Clams have been working best on both tides. Blacks are a good item at Gardiner's, Washington Shoals and the Shagwong area, fish in the 4 lb. range on clam. Pollack at SE Light in the 30 lb. class. A porgy made the ultimate sacrifice at Gin Beach on a piece of sand worm. The charter boat **Nostalgia II** did very well over the weekend fishing for flounders off of Tobacco Lot. Joining in the flatfish feast was on Wednesday, Capt Packy of the **Ever Ready**, Nick Karas and Rudy Mae with a toal of 40 good flounder. Maureen's Rental Boats also did excellent on flounders at Rocky Point and Washington Shoals.

SOUTH FORK
★ BEST BET ★
FLOUNDER

SHINNECOCK

Capt Clark II reports very good weakfishing this past week with fish running 8 to 12 lbs. on jelly worms and squid strips. On Thursday a 12 lb. weak took the pool for Bayside angler Harry Brockman. Friday saw Robert Haynes of Brooklyn as hi hook with 4 weaks and 23 large porgies winning the pool with a 10 lb. weak. Large porgies up to 3 lbs. are being caught in good numbers using sand worms as bait. Fishing was slower over the weekend due to the heavy boat traffic.

Thom at **Speck's Bait and Tackle** reports that in Shinnecock Bay flounder fishing continues steady with Heady Creek and the basket area producing best. Fluking was fair to good and seems to be improving on a daily basis. Thom reminded that he will continue carrying mussels for about another week. Flounder faithful take note. For bass fishermen, Thom is well supplied with live eels. For blackfish fans, Thom suggested the inlet jetty. In the Peconics, good porgy fishing with most of the fish in the 1 to 2½ lb. class at buoys 18 and 30. Henry McKnight and Bill Lamont returned with one of Thom's rental skiffs and a catch of 40 porgies to 2½ lbs., a couple of blackfish and one weakfish. Weakfishing is good but most of the action occurs in the early morning or evening hours. Fish are spread throughout the Peconics and South Race, Jessup's, buoy 18 and Noyac Bay have all witnessed good weakfish action.

MORICHES BAY

Jim at **Skidmore's Fishing Station** reported flounder action held up through the long weekend. The best fishing on Saturday and Sunday occurred southwest of buoy 43, while on Monday the hotspot was just south of 39. It appears the fish have moved up onto the sandy bottom areas. Red-dyed clams and worms have both been effective and while chum helps it is not a necessity. On Saturday, Joe Sander single-handedly put away 69 nice flatties.

Hi-Way Fishing Station reported a very good weekend. The station's flatfish derby was held over the long weekend with the fluke division taken by a 5½ lber. and the flounder category settled by a 2 lb. 5 oz. flattie. Of the flounder fishing, buoys 36, 38, 42 and 43 have all produced some sensational catches. Many boats returned with 100 fish apiece, some as many as 200. Nick Russo, Joe Russo and their friend Bob, were towed out to buoy 38 one day this past week and using worms with no chum, the trio loaded their skiff with 230 flounder from 3/4 to 1½ lbs.

Gary at **Silly Lily Fishing Station** reported very good flounder fishing continues from buoys 38 to 42. Bloodworms and mussel chum have been providing average per boat scores of 40 to 80 fish with many scores of over 100 flatties. Both incoming and outgoing water have been producing and the fish are still a nice size, although a few smaller fish are beginning to show. On Saturday, John and Linda Lee returned with 107 flatties, while Frank Jones Jr. and Sr. and Steve Felitz combined for 115 flatties on Monday.

Charter boat **Sea Mist** described the flounder fishing in the bay as excellent with lots of fish in the 1 to 1¼ lb. range. Buoys 27 and 29 have been especially productive. The skipper asked that we remind customers that he has still has June 13 open. This is the date of the Moriches Anglers Shark Tournament, so if anyone is interested in fishing the contest, give a call.

HAMPTON BAYS

John at **Corr's Fishing Station** reported a week long catch of 52 weaks for Captain Ed and his crew aboard the Magic Carpet. Rentals over the long holiday weekend were enjoying good fluking right in front of the station with the average catch per boat in the 20 to 30 fish range. Sand eels and squid combos did most of the damage. Among those loading up on the new arrivals were Tom Sasana and Richard Gatto. For those still interested in flounder, good fishing continues in the basket area.

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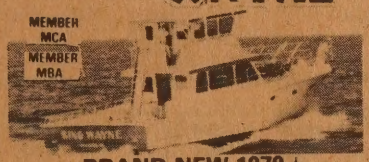

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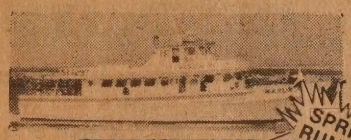

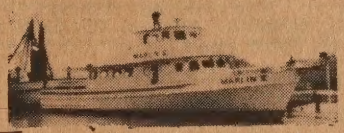

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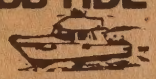

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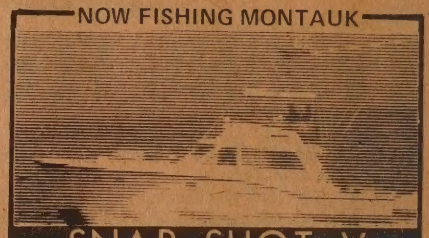

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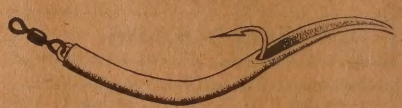

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This 10¾ lb. blackfish was taken on a sandworm by John Borroni while weakfishing at Ocean Beach. Photo courtesy of Skippy's Bait and Tackle in East Rockaway.

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MASTIC BEACH

Gary at **Stiriz' Fishing Station** reported very good fluking from buoy 17 to 23 on all the usual fluke baits. Any moving tide has been productive with boats taking anywhere from 30 to 40 of the summer flatfish apiece. Gary figured that the ratio of keepers to shorts is about 3 to 1 and there have been quite a few 3 to 4 lb. fluke taken as well. Flounder fishing is still worthwhile from buoys 21 to 27 on sand worms while the best bet for blowfish appears to be the buoy 19 area. Weakfish at buoy 12 and at the bridge on sand worms and jelly worms and Gary also noted that there are lots of squid in the bay for the first time in years.

WEST SAYVILLE

South Bay Fishing Station reports that weakfishing has been good with fish in the 8-13 lb. class being taken on jelly worms and sand worms. Porgies, blowfish and fluke in good supply for sinker bouncers and the first blue claw crabs have made their appearance in the area.

OAKDALE

Dave at **J&R Sport Center** reported that a 15 lb. 12 oz. weak currently leads the store contest. First prize is a free mount of the winning fish by Fish Unlimited Taxidermy. Bill Stifil was the lucky angler of the huge tiderunner. Other notable fish weighed in during the week included a 9 lb. 14 oz. blackfish taken by Chip Libertino who took the tautog while trolling an umbrella rig for bluefish near the Kismet Reef. Rocky Varrone and Jim Butler checked in a catch of porgies up to 2 lbs. 5 oz. along with sea bass, blowfish and a trio of weaks. They fished the Ocean Beach area. Charlie Johnson had his weakfish quest interrupted by a fluke of 10 lbs. 10 oz. while drifting a jelly worm at buoy 8. Five-year old Ian Price took his first weakfish. It weighed 8 lbs. 5 oz. Dave noted that fluke fishing appears worthwhile with a few 4 and 5 lbers. checked in and said that decent trout fishing continues in Bubbles and Rattles, both tributaries of the Connetquot.

EAST ISLIP

From **Peppy's Bait and Tackle** Irene reported that 10 yr. old Mike Ryekman scored with his first weakfish ever and made it one to remember. The 10 lb. 10 oz. tiderunner was taken on a sand worm at Ocean Beach. Lisa Cioffi checked in an 8 lb. blackfish. Flounder fishing continues at the pocket behind the Sore Thumb and Irene described the fluking in the inlet area as fair, with sand eels and squid combos taking most of the fish.

BAY SHORE

Captain Neil Delanoy of the **Casey Lee** reported decent fluking Friday and Saturday with catches running from 3 to 7 fish per man. Fishing slowed however on Sunday and Monday. Fishing is being done in the State Channel, at the bridge and near Sexton Island. Sand eel and squid combos have been the most effective baits. In West Channel, weakfish have been providing good action with 17 yellowfins taken on Sunday night. Many of the fish approach the 10 lb. mark and the pool is usually in the 11 to 12 lb. range. On Monday, the skipper's parents combined for three weaks, while Marty Beltrami of Bethpage had 3 himself. Both jelly worms and sand worms have been taking fish.

Carl at **Smokey's Bait and Tackle** weighed in a tiderunner of 12½ lbs. for Mike DeArchangelo. The big fish came from West Channel. Larry and Bill Winoski checked in a catch of weaks to 10½ lbs. along with blackfish and flounder made at buoy 12. Bay Shore Tuna Club member Dolly Fraser fishing aboard the boat Windfall weighed in a 13 lb. weak taken at Ocean Beach. Joe Saviano fished West Channel in search of weaks and instead found his jelly worms taken by blues of 9½ and 7½ lbs. A fair showing of blowfish in the bay and fluke have been improving with most of the action concentrated from the lighthouse to the inlet. Ed Mosier fished West Channel with sand worms and took 3 weaks from 8 to 10 lbs. over the weekend.

CAPTREE

Captain Charlie Kennedy of the open boat **Bob Joseph** reported that fluke fishing over the weekend was slow due to heavy boat traffic and strong northwest winds. Things should get back to normal once everything settles down. Of the evening weakfish trips, the skipper reported that despite the traffic fish were taken at Ocean Beach and West Channel on sand worms and jelly worms. While anglers are not catching many of the prize weaks, the ones being taken are all big tiderunners. The skipper reminded too that he will be changing his sailing time from 4 to 5PM this week.

Bobby at the **Captree Bait Station** reported that heavy weekend traffic hurt the fluking and weakfishing. Some of the open boats still managed up to 15 or 20 big weaks, despite the traffic however. There's still some flounder at the Overlook Pier and blowfish are mixed with them. This action is all on worms.

Captain Gordon Roman of the open boat **Captree Queen** described the fluke and flounder fishing over the long holiday weekend as generally slow. A lot of short fluke are being

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taken in the State Channel and inlet area, although it appeared that on Sunday and Monday a new body of larger flatfish had moved into the inlet area. Killies and sand eels fished on incoming water has produced the best fluking up to this point. Weakfishing has been decent with 12 to 20 tiderunners taken on each trip. On Saturday, Frank Falcon put away 5 tiderunners up to 11½ lbs. using jelly worms and sand worms. On Monday, fishing primarily West Channel, Jim Wagner took a 12 lb. 10 oz. weak, while Angie Cifarelli had a 12½ lber. Fishing is being done at Ocean Beach as well as in West Channel and a couple of blues are mixed with the weaks on each trip.

The open boat **Capt. Richie**, skippered by Captain Richie Westerlind, has been taking fluke along with some blowfish mixed in from the bridge to the inlet. The skipper believes that we're in for a good fluke year as all the signs up until now have been very promising. A surprise catch over the weekend was a 12 lb. bluefish which butted in on the fluke action.

The open boat **Capt. Scotty** reported that while the day weakfish trips have been tough picking, he has had some night trips with catches ranging between 20 to 30 tiderunners. He is now sailing daily for both fluke and weaks at 6AM. Porgies, sea bass and blowfish have added spice to the bottom fishing in the area, with sand worms the best bet for these fish in West Channel.

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BABYLON

From **Augie's Bait and Tackle** Ski reported the results of the Babylon Tuna Club weakfish contest held on Sunday. First place went to Lou Clemenz with a 12½ lber. George Finlaysan checked in with a 12 lb. 7 oz. tiderunner to cop 2nd place, while Karl Fogliano nailed down 3rd spot with an 11 lb. 9 oz. weak. One day last week, Dr. Dan Zeidner of Pennsylvania was introduced to South Bay weakfish by Ben Chameides of East Meadow fishing in West Channel and using sand worms, the pair put away 9 weaks up to 12 lbs. Small blues have been roaming around inside the inlet, while boatmen fishing outside have encountered the first big choppers of the year. Last Thursday, Ski and his son Donald teamed up to take 14 weaks to 10 lbs. using sinking Rebels. In recent days, the 5½" long Rebels have been taking their toll on tiderunner weaks.

SOUTH SHORE BAYS
★ BEST BET ★
FLOUNDER

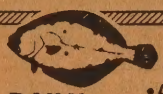
LINDENHURST

Mike reported from **Lindenhurst Bait and Tackle** that Bill Shelton fished West Channel with jelly worms and took a pair of weaks up to 10 lbs. Joe Guerra had 4 weaks to 12½ lbs. and one bluefish in the same area. Mike knew of blues being taken on surface plugs on Farm Shoals while decent flounder fishing continues at Squaw Island and in the pocket behind the Sore Thumb on worms and mussels. Fair fluking at the inlet and blacks at the bridges and the Sore Thumb.

AMITYVILLE

George of **Combs Bait and Tackle** labelled the weakfishing pretty good based on the quality rather than the quantity of the fish. The Ocean Beach grounds, Heckscher and Babylon flats, West Channel and the Copiague Hole have all been producing trophy tiderunners. Sand worms and jelly worms have both been effective. A good showing of fluke this past week from the Amityville Cut to the 3rd Wantagh bridge. A lot of shorts, but

BAYSHORE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enough keepers to make it interesting and an occasional doormat mixed in, according to George. Kingfish and blowfish being caught along with the fluke. Flounder fishing still decent in Swift Creek and at the 3rd Wantagh on worms while shrimp chummers have been taking a mixture of school bass and weakfish in the State Channel. George noted that they have a good supply of the hard to find shrimp chum available. Big blues were taken offshore with a couple of good catches made in 110' of water.

MASSAPEQUA

George Buzzetta and wife Judy just back from the Bahamas fishing on the boat Ted's Pest had a memorable angling vacation scoring with a 150 lb. white marlin, a 450 lb. hammerhead shark, a 75 lb. bigeye tuna, 5 yellowfin to 40 lbs. Judy took a 30 lb. yellowfin and a 20 lb. horsemackerel.

SEAFORD

Wanser's Bait and Tackle reported flounder held up over the long weekend with good action at Four Corners, the 2nd bridge and in Zachs Bay. Fluke fishing improved despite a lot of throwbacks and Sloop Channel and Goose Creek seemed to produce the best catches. Sand eel and squid combo has been the most effective bait. There are a pretty fair number of blowfish around and they are mixed in with flounder, fluke and blackfish. A few weaks being taken at the Meadowbrook after dark on sand worms and Lon also knew of a few big bass up to 38 lbs. live-lined near the 3rd Wantagh bridge.

John at **Pop's Fishing Station** reported very good flounder fishing continued at the 2nd and 3rd bridges, with blackfish and blowfish mixed in. Best action has been around the changes of tide, with catches running

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up to 50 fish a boat on Sunday and better catches prior to the weekend. On Saturday, Red Dwanger put away 118 flatties up to 2½ lbs. by himself fishing Squaw Island and the 2nd bridge using worms and corn and mussel chum.

Last week we inadvertently left out an announcement for the open boat **Chinco** stating that he would not be sailing over the Memorial Day weekend. The skipper noted that he will resume his sailing schedule this weekend.

BELLMORE

From **Merrick Tackle,** Scott described the fluke fishing as fair with a lot of shorts mixed in. There was good flounder action in the deep water near the Coast Guard Station on worms and sand worms were also taking some blackfish at the local bridges. Boatmen drifting sand worms on night tides at the Meadowbrook and Wantagh Bridges have been taking a few weakfish.

MERRICK

Jimmy at **Nick's Fishing Station** reported the first striper was checked into the station Monday AM by Dennis Newman. Dennis used a bunker to put an 18½ lb. bass in the boat. Of the fluking, boatmen fishing Merrick Point and the golf course have been averaging 5 to 6 fish a boat, while flounder fishing continues good in Rowboat Alley, and Broad and Haunts Creeks. Blackfishing this past weekend slowed somewhat while small blues were available inside the inlet and larger choppers, in the 7-9 lb. class were trolled outside the inlet.

BALDWIN

Jan at **Thompson's Deli** tells of good blackfishing at the Meadowbrook Bridge and the T wreck on fiddlers. Good flounder catches at Turtle Creek, fish up to 2 lbs. on worms and mussels. Plenty of fluke in Reynold's Channel off Pt Lookout and Lido with a few keepers inbetween the midgets on squid and sand eels. Some flounder and eels and an occasional legal fluke from the Deli dock.

Arthur Street Fishing Station says flounders are still being caught in Middle Bay and off Boces from ¾ to 1½ lbs. on worm and clam. Also off Short Beach. Lots of short fluke and a few keepers in Reynold's Channel on sand eels and squid.

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WEST END
SOUTH SHORE
★ BEST BET ★
FLOUNDER

FREEPORT

Capt Walt Scott of the charter boat **Acme II** on the weekend had a good pick of nice sized flounders for Chris Ryans' Pub. The picture took a big turn for the better on the following day's trip for Masakazo Ebaia's group with 4 drops producing a steady pick of big flounders up to 2½ lbs. The Crooked Stick produced all big fat fish. Clams, mussels and worms all caught. Walt is waiting for a good show of weakfish for the weekday trips.

Capt Tony of the **Miss Freeport II** says the flounder catches continue to be good and he will be staying with the flounder throughout this week atleast. He's fishing all local waters

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and says flounders are the best bet now with fares averaging 12 to 16 fish a man, fish from 1 to 1½ lbs. average.

Bob at **Hook, Line & Sinker Bait & Tackle** weighed in two big stripers for sharpie Jason Colby taken at night on rigged eels. These fish weighed 35 lb. 8 oz. and 37 lb. 10 oz., one of Wednesday, one of Thursday, both taken from the West End jetty on rigged eels at night. Some keeper fluke being caught but there are mostly short fish around.

Freeport Boatmen's Association tells us that the **Super Spray II** had an excellent cod wreck trip on Memorial Day with some cod in the 50 to 55 lb. range. The total catch was mixed sizes of fish but all in all it was a good solid catch with anywhere from 1½ to 2 tons of fish caught. Customers walked off with coolers and burlap bags full of fish or fillets. It was a successful trip that many fares have already reserved for the next cod wreck trip which will be June 20th. There is a 65 man limit so if you are interested, reserve your spot early. See ad for details. Dock master Bob says the Capt II had flounders over the weekend from 1 to 2 lbs. fishing local waters. The Norsman II fished the NYPD for a good mixed bag of flounders and fluke. The Atlantic had a mixed bag of sea bass, ling and blackfish for Saturday's charter. The Corsar had a good flounder catch on the weekend. Capts Tony Schultz and Frank Cositor fishing on the Fisherman, fished in 140' of water SE of Jone's and had 2 blue shark of 125 and 150 lbs. plus 9 bluefish from 7 yo 10 lbs.

Capt Richie of the **Starstream II** has been working on sea bass up to 3 lbs. 8 ozs. on some days and other days is doing a job on ling of very good size. Richie says there are scattered bluefish all over the place and things look very promising for the upcoming bluefish season.

The **Capt Al** says that he has been having the finest kind of blackfishing at a local inshore wreck with solid consistent catches Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday. Filling a 5 gallon bucket has been no big trick and fish are running up to 7 lbs. all on fiddlers. A 6 lb. blue was taken Monday and there are also a few huge ling and sea bass around the wreck.

The **Capt Bill** reports that on his half-day trips customers have been getting flounders up to 3 lbs. With cold water flushing in there have been some trips where the fish were hitting very lightly and getting down in the mud. Bill says he hopes to start fluking around the beginning of June. Catches on flounders were very good during the week with catches of 15 to 20 fish no big trick and catches of 5 to 8 fish a man on a poor day. The weekend say big crowds and loads of boat traffic and so catches were down. A few sea bass and porgies are also being picked.

The **Aloma II** reports the fluking has been fair. On Thursday 20 customers had 150 keepers on the

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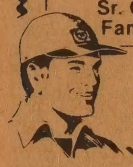

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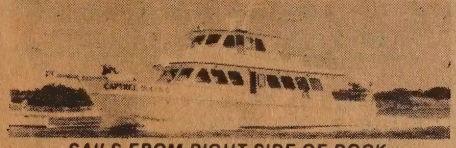

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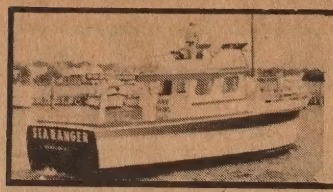

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morning trip. Fares are averaging 5 to 8 fish a man of which 3 to 4 are keepers. Catches are roughly the same in the afternoon trips. Skipper is fishing local channels and Jone's Inlet with fish caught this week up to 4 lbs. all on sand eels and squid.

Capt Jim of the **Super Spray II** tells us that his two half day fluke trips daily have been doing well with customers averaging 8 to 10 fish for half day trip fishing local waters on sand eel and squid. For details of the Memorial Day cod wreck trip, see report given by **Freeport Boatmen's Association**.

This information came in late Monday morning but just in time to get in. On the Memorial Day cod wreck trip the biggest fish was 55 lbs. but the angler was not in the pool. Pool winner was Fred Mohres of Richmond Hill with a 35 lb. cod. Second Place went to Joe Villani of Baldwin with a slightly smaller fish. Hi hook was Frank Bodensky with 10 cod. Runner up hi hook was Dick Spaeth with 8 fish, 4 of which ran between 25 and 32 lbs. On Monday a 6 lb. fluke was caught by John Cunningham of Elmhurst.

The **Blue Fin Fleet** tells us that the pool flounder for the weekend was a 2 lb. 3 oz. flounder caught by Howard Blumberg of Woodbury. Runner up for the weekend was Maria with a 2 lb. 1 oz. flounder. Both the **BF II & III** enjoyed good flounder fishing at Swift Creek, at the Meadowbrook Bridge and off the Coast Guard Station. Some blacks and sea bass were also caught at the Meadowbrook up to 3 lbs. (blacks) on clam and worm bait along with corn and clam chum. A few incidental fluke were also caught which included 2 keepers. The keepers were 15 and 16 inch rogue fish taken from Swift Creek. Capt Sy says he has a few night bluefish dates available and also some weekday bluefish dates.

Anthony's Fishing Station had all their boats out on the three day weekend and they all brought back mixed catches of flounders, blackfish and some fluke from the area of the Meadowbrook Bridge and Pt Lookout area including Reynold's Channel. Best fluke catch was 9 keepers which worked the Coast Guard Station area on killies and squid.

The **Capt Lou Fleet** tells of good flounder fishing during the week, excellent at the beginning of the week and slower over the weekend. On Tuesday Ed of Casino Cleaners in Merrick, cleaned up with 45 flounders. Paul Wetterau of Garden City pulled 49 keeper flounders on Tuesday followed by Len Manfre with 40 flounders Tuesday. Sunday saw sharp shooter Dick of Atlantic Tires grinning with 50 flounders. Tom Annitt of Oceanside had 39 flounders Sunday. Neal Eisenburg of Little Neck had 32 flounders plus the 3 lb. pool winner. That was all on the **Capt Lou III** the full day boat. The **Capt Lou IV** the half day boat, also had very good catches early in the week but saw the body count on fish decline on the weekend due to heavy boat traffic. Hi hooks early in the week ranged in the high 20s and worms worked best. The **III** will be spliting the day now between flounder and fluke and the **IV** will be doing just fluke.

POINT LOOKOUT

Ed's Fishing Station tells of good fluking but still lots of short fish with 25 percent being keepers. A lot of fish are just under 14''. Reynold's Channel has been best with sand eels and squid prefered. Flounder still a good item in Swift Creek, Middle Bay and in the flats on worms, mussel and clam. Blackfish very good at the bridges. Jim Gruebel, Ralph Russo and Charlie and Sue Sciara on the boat Meri II fished the T wreck and scored with 30 blacks in the 5 lb. class on fiddlers. Joe Poggi and Tony Cosantino had 18 keeper fluke Wednesday up to 4½ lbs. in Reynold's Channel.

Tom at **Scotty's Fishing Station** tells of 10 to 15 lb. bluefish off the JI buoy on trolled umbrellas during the week and a 10 lb. blue taken by a youngster in Reynold's Channel on a fluke rig. Best flounders have been in Reynold's at buoy 16 and in Sea Dog

and Swift Creeks on worms and mussels. Fluke have been caught in Reynold's Channel in front of the station up to 8 lbs. with about 25 percent keeper ratio on sand eel squid combos and also on spearing. Blacks at the T wreck and all the bridges on fiddlers.

Charter boat **Marie III** called to say that Sunday's trip for Don Done and group from the Flushing PO had excellent flounder catches in Haunt's Creek in the morning. They fished high slack at the Meadowbrook Bridge and picked flounders, blacks and a stray blowfish. Bill Melchiorre took the pool with a 2 lb. flounder. They are averaging 1 to 1¾ lbs. and blacks are running from ¾ to 3 lbs. all on clam. Monday's charter for the Menz family saw slow fishing but all fish were good size at the Meadowbrook, Haunt's and Swift's Creeks. Dennis says he has a 4th of July open shark fish double header coming up. See ad for number and call for info if interested.

ISLAND PARK

Capt Clem of the **Commodore** says that he is now fluking every day. Clem says he sees lots of small fluke being caught and that the keeper ratio should be building imminently. Jone's Inlet and the area around the bridges and Reynold's Channel will be prime targets.

Beckmann's Tackle in Lynbrook reports flounder remain strong in Reynold's Channel on worms, clam and mussel. Mixed sizes of blackfish at all the bridges on fiddlers and clam. Some keeper fluke being pulled out of Reynold's Channel.

LONG BEACH

Long Beach Sports Marina called to report that Ricky, Arthur and Matt Costa of Long Beach pulled 17 fluke Saturday at Duck Point on sand eels. Frank and Tom Durando of Long Beach had 12 fluke and a bucket of blackfish taken at the Atlantic Beach Bridge Sunday. The fluke hit the sand eels and the blacks gobbled the fiddler crabs. Jim Wilson and Stan Isaacs pulled 20 flounder to 2 lbs. along with 25 blowfish on worms at buoy 1 at the Atlantic Beach Bridge. The station will be open Friday and Saturday evenings till 10 p.m. from now till Labor Day.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Capt Ronnie Lepper of the charter boat **Kim** called to say that there has suddenly appeared a run of big striped bass in the 25 to 40 lb. range which are being trolled on bunker spoons from Rockaway to Long Beach. This apparently started Friday. Art Valenti of Lawrence had 4 stripers on Monday from 25 to 35 lbs.

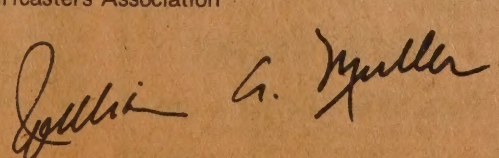
EDITORIAL: Partners in Progress

(Continued from page 2.)

nature. Still we will move ahead to new access, better security, reduction of park problems, better communication between concerned groups, assistance of the Commission in the resolution of perhaps some of its nagging problems, and perhaps a host of unforeseen developments.

At this time, we would like to introduce you to the group's new members. Unfortunately, George Hulse, who during his tenure on the Council contributed a great deal, was forced to resign to pursue another opportunity. The United Mobile Sportfishermen thus replaced George with Mr. Fred Lotz. Mr. Lotz has had considerable experience working on similar issues with similar groups. Recently, the group also elected to add a representative of the recently formed Montauk Surfcasters Association so that a geographical balance of representation was achieved. The Montauk representative is Mr. John (Whitey) Pawleski, a seasoned and well-respected surf fisherman. We welcome these folks to our group and we are confident that they will quickly develop a "feel" for the people and the method of operation of the Council so that they will easily find opportunity to make a substantial contribution to what has already been, in a short period of time, a tremendously successful enterprise. If you have an idea or a problem please feel free to contact one of the representatives listed here.

John Fritz—Farragut Striper Club and formerly The Sport Fishing Council
Mike Parker—L.I.B.B.A.
Bill Muller—Long Island Fisherman
Don Palmer—Independent
Fred Lotz—U.M.S.
John Pawleski—Montauk Surfcasters Association



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and 7 lunkers were taken Tuesday morning just prior to these fishing reports being put to bed by another boat fishing spoons. Stripers are chasing bunker and there are big blues mixed in.

Al at **Reynold's Reef Fishing Station** tells us that the Atlantic Beach Rod and Gun Club held their weakfish tounament Saturday and Sunday. Leon Miller and Warren Sickerman tied for 1st place, both catching weaks weighing in at 11 lbs. 5 oz. on sand worms off Ocean Beach. Fred Hill took 3rd place with a 10 lb. 12 oz. weak, same bait same area. Big stripers were trolled by Far Rockaway anglers Tom Mirabito and Larry Glazier. This was off Beach 36th St., Far Rockaway, on Atom plugs from the surf. The bass were weighed in at 33 lbs. 10 ozs., 29 lbs. 4 ozs. and 26 lbs. taking late Sunday afternoon. Artie Valenti on his boat trolled bunker spoons off Rockaway between 35th and 63rd streets in 35' of water for fish of 34, 32, 29 and 27 lbs. On Monday Emile Siniscalchi on the boat Four Queens bagged a 10 lb. 7 oz. weak. Blues are in the channel in the 3 to 10 lb. range as are fluke in Reynold's Channel on squid and sand eels. Fewer blacks were caught this week at the Atlantic Beach Bridge. Plenty of flounder off the Cedarhurst Yacht Club at the creeks and off the Silver Point jetty.

EAST ROCKAWAY

Skippy's Bait & Tackle reports good flounder catches at the Atlantic Beach Bridge with a few good fluke coming in between the Long Beach HS and the RR trestle. Skippy weighed in a 3, 4 and 6 lb. fluke this week. Four bass taken on spoons Monday off the Rockaways from 25 to 33 lbs. Flounders at their finest at the docks at the Atlantic Beach Bridge on mussels on the beach side. Tom O'Sullivan, George Last and John Wuerful on Marty's Gals bagged 40 tilefish up to 42 lbs. in 400' of water.

JAMAICA BAY

Cross bay Bait & Tackle tells of Elizabeth Ogden's 7¾ lb. blackfish taken off JFK Airport on clam. Flounders averaging 1 to 1½ lbs. on worms being taken off the North Channel Bridge. A few small blues and bass at the evening hours on worms and also on plugs. A 36 lb. striper for Jason Colby on a bunker chunk off the Breezy Point jetty.

Richie at **JBay Boat Rentals** says that schoolie bass are being trolled on white bucktails and mono along the grassy shores at JFK daytime with fish being small and shorts. Big weakfish at Silver Hole on bunker chunks. Lots of eels and some small flounders and porgies around buoy 25 and NW Point. Schoolie bass also at the Radar Pier.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Capt Tom of the **Elsie K III** says that the flounder catches have been very good all week at Cedars off Sandy Hook Bay. Hi hook of flounders Monday was 25 fish. About 20 fluke a day are being taken now by the boat up to 4 lbs. Monday through Thursday saw some of the best flounder catches the skipper can remember with hi hooks being in the 80s everyday. Average catches were 40 to 50 keepers a man from 1 to 3 lbs. Absolutely super fishing when the boat traffic was not overwhelming. It was overwhelming over the 3 day weekend but the fishing was still very respectable. The boat may be splitting the days between fluke and flounder from now on as the flounder are moving out of Sandy Hook Bay but this hot fishing should continue right through this coming weekend.

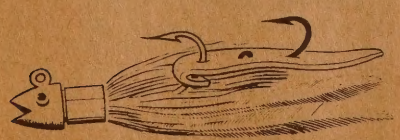
Capt Jack Michaels of the **America** reports fair to good catches of sea bass, blacks and porgies all this past week and weekend on local wrecks and reefs in the area. Most of the catch consist of blackfish. A few sea flounders were also taken.

Capt Butch of the **Zephyr** has been working Jamaica Bay for flounders with some fluke coming aboard also in the afternoons, the boat has been sailing to the Cedars where catches are roughly 40 keepers more a man. Ling and blacks are also being caught on mussel bottom. Butch suggests that you call to determine if he is fishing for fluke or flounder by the weekend.

Mike's Bait & Tackle tells of loads of bluefish off Coney Island and Seagate on diamond jigs and big bait tails. Fluke are starting in Sandy Hook and off Rockaway. The traditional sand eel/squid combos are working best. Blackfishing remains good at Seabright and other rocky areas on green crab. Lots of ling being caught at Scotland. Flounders still being caught off the jetties in the entire Rockaway area.

STATEN ISLAND

Santo's Sport Shop tells of bass in the low 20s and blues up to 12 lbs. being caught at Ft. Wadsworth on plugs and cut mackerel at dawn and before dawn. Two to 6 lb. blues off Oakwood and New Dorp. This is on bunker chunks or trolled umbrellas. Blacks remain good at all rocky areas on fiddlers or greens. Fluke starting at Great Kills Harbor. Mixed flounder, eels and blackfish at piers 8, 17, 18 and 10. A few weakfish outside the harbor on drifted sand worms or bucktails skipped along the bottom.



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WEAKFISH

GREENPORT

Capt George Porter of the **Brand X** says it's been a slaughter on weakfish on the night trips. Friday night fares had over 150 weaks, Saturday night over 200 and Sunday night more than 300 weakfish mixed with blues. Ninety percent of the catch was weakfish and the majority are 8 to 10 pounders. On a day trip Joe Contento of Centereach hoisted a 12 lb. 10 oz. weakfish. The skipper says that as many fish are lost as are caught so you can get an idea of the volume of fish around. Four mates and the captain were all working the deck on these hectic night trips. Catches were all on squid strips. Saturday's day trip saw lots of porgies and a few weakfish caught.

The **Peconic Star** has been doing very well on big flounders at Gardiner's Island but this week is switching over to weakfish. Please see ad for species and sailing time changes for the above two boats.

Charter boat **Blue Albatross** tells of good catches over the 3 day weekend with Capt John Rainis at the wheel. Sunday's charter for the Blue Bird Fishing Club an 8 lb. 8 oz. blackfish took the pool for Ed Schwerdtfeger on Ronkonkoma. This was on clam. Monday's pool winner was Frank Squiano of Brooklyn with a 7 lb. black on clam. Maxine Fico was hi hook with 20 mixed flounders and blacks taken at Gardiner's on worm and clam. Starting June 17th, the **Blue Albatross** will be running opening for fluke Monday through Friday. Call for details.

AP White Bait Shop tells of super weakfishing through Sunday. Bluefish are in the bay also, as are the porgies. Lots of blackfish along the Sound and on the east side of Gardiner's. Fluke are starting in the bay also and Art weighed in a 17 lb. 8 oz. fluke this week. The fish was caught on squid strips by a regular by the name of George. The weakfish have been hitting squid, sand worms and jelly worms. Try Orient and Tobacco Lot for big flounders.

SOUTHOLD

The open boat **Capt Darby** which is sailing Saturdays and Sundays only, had one customer that bagged a 10 lb. 6 oz. weak. Very good weakfish catches at buoy 18 for fish averaging 6 to 8 lbs. Porgy catches are good also, fish averaging a pound and better. There are good numbers of fish being caught by all fares with clam or squid working for the porgies, worms or squid/jelly worm combos for the weaks. The boat is sailing out of Southold Fishing Station.

NEW SUFFOLK

Newt Robins at **Capt. Jim's** described a few good catches in Peconic Bay by old-timers who go one place and stay there. Deep water off Rose's Grove, for example, had 1 boat that accounted for 10 gal. of porgies, all 1½ lb. stuff as well as weakfish. Some pods of big 8-9 lb. weaks are still to be caught off Rose's on jelly worms and squid combo. Robin's best fish over the weekend was 11½ lber. entered in LIF contest by Louise Baxter of Deer Park.

AQUEBOGUE

Warren's Tackle tells of weakfish in the bay running 6 to 8 lbs. hitting on jelly worms tipped with squid. Porgy fishing has increased in numbers with the porgies hitting clam and sand worms. Best areas for porgies has been buoys 22 and 23 with fish running 1½ to 2 lbs. Some blues in the bay in the 4 to 5 lb. class hitting any thing. Blacks and flounder in the Sound with some weaks starting. A few 4 to 5 lb. stripers off the beach on swimming plugs. Blackfish being caught off the beach also on sand worms. fish of mixed sizes.

SAG HARBOR

Bayview Fishing Station reports John Kosowski of Sag Harbor bagged a 13 lb. 4 oz. fluke at Meshamok Point on drifted squid strips Friday. Three local teenagers scored with 9 weaks from 5 to 8 lbs. and a 4 lb. bluefish on Saturday. The weaks took purple jelly

worms tipped with squid strips and the bluefish fell for the same. This was at the west end of the ferry. Chris says the flounders remain good. Dr. Coleman had 50 flatties fishing Cedar Point Saturday, fish averaging 1 lb. on worm and mussel and corn chum. Fluke are starting to be taken at the Ruins on sand eels and strip baits. Excellent night weakfishing on jelly worms and squid off Long Beach. Fishing is good all around and there are lots of weakfish all over the place says Chris.

Capt Artie Lach of the **Wilhelric II** says the night weakfishing is fantastic and has been excellent all week. A decent fisherman is getting roughly 6 to 10 fish a trip and sometimes more. There are some blues mixed in with the weaks. This is all on squid strips on hi lo rigs. All the porgies you want too says Artie, by just dropping your line down to the bottom. But come NOW if you want weakfish. Best time is during the week and bring friends so that there will be enough people for the boat to sail. Pool weakfish are running steadily in the 14 lb. class with fish running from 3 to 14 lbs. The porgies are all humpbacks. The boat is sailing every night. The day flounder fishing at Gardiner's remains excellent with flatties from 1 to 3 lbs. On a good day catches are 10 to 15 big flounders a man, 6 a man on a poor day, with blackfish mixed in. Friday was the only poor day for flounder all week.

NOYAC

Barbara at **Noyac Marina** tells us that Vincent Sombrotto of Noyac on Saturday bagged a 12 lb. 1 oz. weak and followed it with a 12 lb. 4 oz. weak on Sunday. A few fluke were caught this weekend in the bay. Barbara weighed in an 11 lb. 12 oz. fluke which was caught off Robin's Island by Stamford CT angler George Warren. Six and 7 lb. fluke have been weighed in from Noyac Bay and lots of porgies are being taken south of buoy 18 up to 2¼ lbs.

NORTH SHORE
MID-ISLAND
★ BEST BET ★
MACKEREL

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Dick Brown from **Dick's Sporting Goods** sampled Sound fishing himself on Monday. In four hours he and his wife took a mixed bag that included one weak, 5 blacks to 8 lbs. and humpback porgies over 1½ lbs. There were also lots of flounder in the catch. Worms produced better than fiddler crabs. They fished four hours around the high tide a half mile off the beach off Miller Place, the stairs near Miller Woods in 15' of water. Some school bass 8-10 lbs. showed up at Rocky Pt. Saturday.

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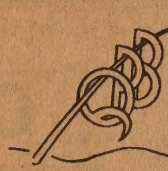

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PORT JEFFERSON

Caraftis Fishing Station says the main thing is blackfishing and it is better on hard bait. Largest are over 10 lbs. Seeing a few weaks 2-6 lbs. and one 11 lber. Saturday, a 19 lb. bass caught off Wading River was weighed in. Aqua-Gem worked on blackfish at Shoreham Power Plant. Flounder fishing is declining. An occasional porgy and fluke showing up in catches.

KINGS PARK

Helen at **OK Bait and Tackle** described a hectic weekend of excellent fishing. Saturday, Paul Smith and Cuck Bradford had 14 blacks to 7¾ lbs. They were mixed in with porgies and flounder. Sunday, the Peels and the Browns had 30 flounder and 25

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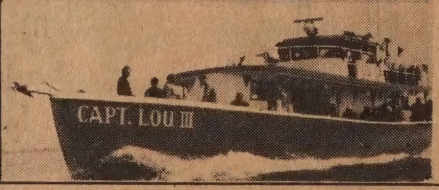

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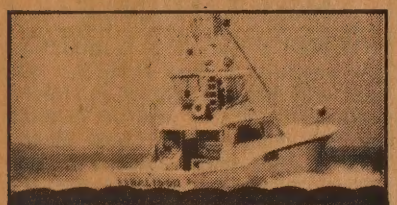

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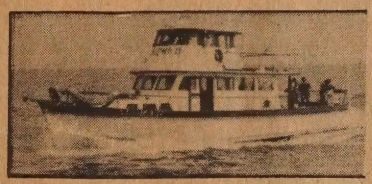

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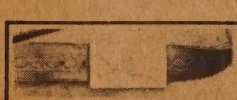

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blackfish to 4½ lbs. on clams and sandworms. Monday, Paul Albaramel, Joel Orlando, and Al Anobeo caught 30 blackfish to 7½ lbs. on fiddler crabs off Eaton's Neck.

NORTHPORT

Bowman's Sporting Goods has been weighing a lot of fish late. 300 boats off Eaton's Neck in heavy weekend traffic did well on catches near C13 north of the Coast Guard Station. Best black was 8½ lbs. Fiddler crabs were best bait accounting for 40-50 fish per boat. Best action came 2 hours before high tide and 2 hours after high tide. Weakfish up to 10 lbs. on Jelly worms at Eaton's and Ashroken.

HUNTINGTON

Capt Packy of the **Ever Ready** says that the macks are gone from the Sound and that blackfishing has been so so Sunday and Monday. A lot of blacks were taken on Monday with 30 fares taking over 300 blacks. All hands were ready to quit by noon, each with a 5 gallon pail chocked with fish. Sharpies had as many as 4 pails full. Brian Koneffel of Dix Hills took the pool with a 7 lb. black. Randy Wiltman of Dix Hills had 16. All fish were caught on fiddlers and clam.

Ronnie of **Ronnie's Bait and Tackle** reported a catch of 13 bass from 5 to 15 lbs. worm trolled in Cold Spring Harbor by local sharpies John Munno Sr. and Jr. The first real cow of the season was checked into the shop on Monday. Steve Conroy took a 36 lber. on an eel at Valley Grove. Also on Monday, Phil Santonastasi ran across a school of blues from 7½ to 8½ lbs. in 30' of water off of Makamah. Phil dropped over an umbrella rig and put away 10 of the husky choppers. John emphasized the excellent run of blackfish at Eaton's Neck and Morris Rock. Fiddler crabs have been the best bait here. Mort Stern checked in a 9 lb. tautog which he took at Eaton's Neck.

George at **Four Winds Bait and Tackle** says the best blackfish action is off buoy 13 at Eaton's Neck. Most fish are in the 3-5 lb. class but some go to 8 lbs. School bass and weaks on sandworms in Cold Spring Harbor and at Lloyd's Point.

GLEN COVE

Phil at **Glen Cove Sport Shop** says they are killing the blackfish at Pryble Beach with consistent shore line action. Some of the biggest fish are over 8 lbs. Sunday night weaks showed at Center Island. Joe Fink, Lady Lil II, had to run to Stratford Shoals Saturday to pick up 10-20 macks per man. Boat switched to flounder, blacks and porgies. Porgies were medium and lots of small blacks around. Pool winner on Monday was a 7½ lb. fish. Monday the boat worked Norwalk Islands and saw 70-30

keeper/throwback ratio on flounder. The best flounder went up to 2¾ lbs. On Memorial Day, Frank Gona was high hook with 40 fish.

BAIT & TACKLE

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MACKEREL

CITY ISLAND

Capt Joe of the **Ebb Tide III** tells us that he is now switching over to blacks, porgies and flounder for his daily trips. On Monday's trip fares caught some of each. The boat will be working from Bayville to the Norwalk Islands to Smithtown Bay in the pursuit of these scrappy gamesters.

According to **Jack's Bait and Tackle**, big blacks are hitting off Harts Island, the old CBS tower, and Fort Slocum. Best baits are fiddlers, green crabs and clams. Best tide seems to be the outgoing and first half-hour of incoming. Still a pick on flounder, but macks are gone. Pete Anderson's Northstar was down to only 86 macks by Friday. He bottom fished the rest of the weekend. On Monday quite a few porgies with a couple over 2 lbs. Flounder 3/4 to 1½ lbs. mixed with blacks. Pool winner runs 7½ to 8 lbs. Anderson said fishing was good with a good crowd and best fishing around Smithtown and Norwalk Island area.

NEW ROCHELLE

John's Gun & Tackle says plenty of flounder in the 1¾ lb. class were caught with worm for bait with blackfish mixed in. Best action from New Rochelle to Hempstead Harbor. For blacks around 5-6 lbs. Worm trollers are taking small bass in the 3-5 lb. range. There is some action on Rebel and RedFin plugs. Also a few weaks off Matinecock Point.

Duke Teofrio along with his sons Robert and Mathew and Paul Ingrassia took 65 flounder up to 2 lbs. in Moriches Bay after renting a skiff at Tadsen's Fishing Station.

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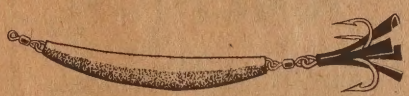

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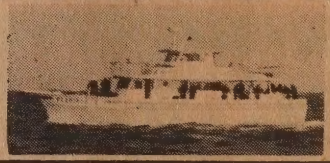

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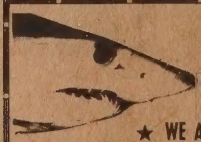

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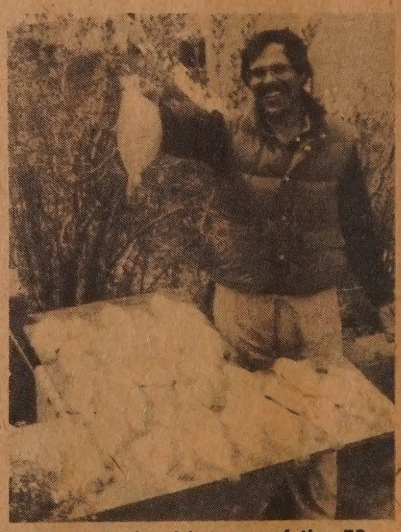

Merv Roth with some of the 50 flounder he and Anthony Giudice caught in Reynold's Channel on worms and mussels. Largest was 1¾ lbs. Subscriber photo.

SURF REPORT
with Fred Golofaro

Seems a run of big stripers has developed on the west end of the island, stretching from the Rockaways to Atlantic Beach. Boatmen have no corner on the action judging by some of the scores made over the long weekend. First word of the action came from Tom Bowman at **Bowman's Sporting Goods Shop** in Northport. Tom weighed up stripers of 41½ and 24 lbs. taken by Joe Sapienza of Kings Park in the wee hours of Saturday morning. Monday morning, between 1:00 and 4:00 a.m. Ron Corso Sr. and Jr., both of Brentwood weighed in fish of 39¾, 34, 33, and 25 lbs. Both catches were made on bait and the anglers told Tom that Atlantic Beach was the scene of the action. Of the local fishing, Tom reported school bass still being taken at the Power Plant on small Tri-Fin whiptails and white bucktails. Also one caster took 5 weaks up to 13 lbs. on a 5½" Rebel plug Thursday evening at Makamah. Getting back to that west end bass run, Bernie Haag of the **Long Beach Sports Marina**, filled me in on the goings on from the Atlantic Beach and Rockaway Beaches. He looked over a catch made by two casters on Saturday night which included a pile of fish from 25 to 45 lbs. Big stripers are being taken on big swimming plugs and bait and according to Ronnie Lepper who runs the charter boat **Kim**, the fish have been gorging themselves on bunker. Bernie reminded that for surfmen looking for bait or a weigh in station, **LB Sports Marina** will be open until 10:00 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays till Labor Day. Big bass are also spread around the Jone's Beach area. Jason Colby who puts no limit on the number of hours spent in his striper quest, tallied fish of 27, 30, 30½, 34, 35, and 38 lb. 10 oz. this past week. He fished both bunker and rigged eels.

Bluefish have made their appearance in the suds judging by the report from the **Captree Bait Station**. Carl Piazza of Babylon took a 9 lb. 15 oz. chopper at Fire Island on Monday while Paul Davidson checked in a 10 lb. 11 oz. blue last Thursday. Dennis Kuenzler of Massapequa used a sand worm to take a 12 lb. 1 oz. weak out of the Gilgo surf on Monday.

Thom at **Speck's Bait & Tackle** looked over a 20.6 lb. bass taken on a Kastmaster from the Shinnecock surf on Saturday. He also noted that weakfish are still being taken by hordes of casters at Long Beach while

(Continued on page 58.)

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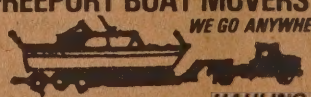

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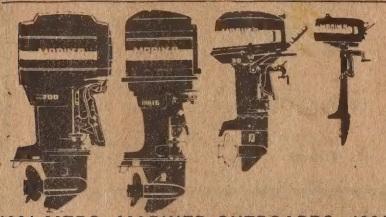

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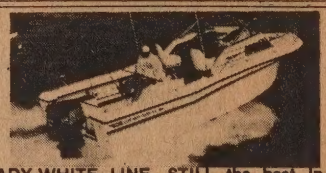

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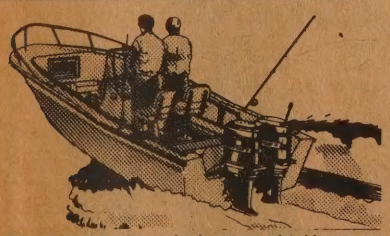

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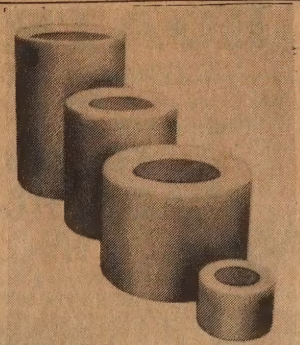

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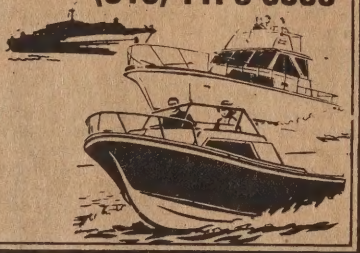

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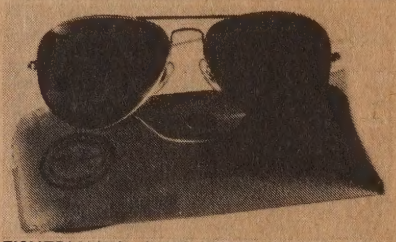
SERIOUS FISHERMAN ONLY. If you want to fish Montauk every weekend and share expenses, call after 6PM: 212-689-0444.

FISHING LOG—Pre-printed on 28 lb. Ledger, 75 pages, 5½x 8½ plastic bound in attractive blue covers. Contains all the important data to keep consistent accurate records. Price $3.98 + $1 post./handl. Send check or money order to: F. Flad, 147 Smith Avenue, Holbrook, N.Y. 11741.



FISHERMAN'S SUNGLASSES—Special Offer. Protect your eyes with the finest quality sunglasses available on the market. Bausch & Lomb Ray-Ban sunglasses with exclusive G-15 impact resistant glass lenses for maximum protection against harmful ultra-violet rays. The retail price is $35; your special price $26.95, post. incl. Specify gold, silver or black tone. Satisfaction guaranteed. WORLD WIDE OPTICS, Box 86, Dept. 481F, Syosset, N.Y. 11791.

Custom made seats. Buy local, not Florida. Recoveries of fold-down seats. Don't wait for spring. Bring them in now. Call for price. FOREAN KUSTOM 549-9489.

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Marine Transport—T.K.'s BOAT HAULING. You call; we haul! 24 hr. Emergency Service. Local & Long Distance; launching and hauling at any desired location. Up to 35'. Fully insured carrier. Call: T.K., 516-623-2967.

FISHERMEN'S BELT BUCKLES—Heavy, solid metal buckles in handsome, antiqued finish. Your choice of striped bass, bluefish, tuna, porgy, fluke, flounder, shark, harpoon dart. Hundreds sold. Money back within 7 days if not satisfied! Send ck or M.O. for $7 to: P. MILLER, 150 Babylon Tpke., Merrick, NY 11566. Also available: striper pin $7; striper medal $9.95.

OPPORTUNITY for fully licensed captain, with or without boat, to run charter or open fishing operation out of well-established Fire Island Inlet Marina. Please indicate operating expenses, experience, etc. P.O. Box 922, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11570.

Wholesale Marine Fasteners. Stainless, silicon bronze. Full line. Shop parts. O-Rings. Free catalog. ARONMARINE, 61 Mastic Beach, New York 11951; 516-281-3366.

REAL ESTATE

HAMPTON BAYS: 1 & 2 bdrm housekeeping cottages directly on Tiana Bay—beach, free boats, dock. Free Mooring. Summer weekly $300-$350. CEDARS COTTAGES, 30 Rampasture Rd., Hampton Bays, NY 11946; 516-728-8558; 728-3296.

both blues and weaks have been showing up along the Cow Neck shore.

Backing up for a moment, Carl of **Smokey's Bait & Tackle** in Bay Shore reported a catch of two 9 lb. blues and a 5 lb. weak for a caster named Andy. He took the fish Monday a.m. at Democrat Point on tins.

Out in Montauk, Johnny Kronuch knew of a few fish taken at Ditch Plains on Friday night. Ted Shane clicked with 5 blues from 6 to 7 lbs. while Ken Charoff nailed a 16 lb. striper. One lone caster working the Light Sunday p.m. left the rocks with 4 weakfish. There have been a few bass showing on Jone's each night with Monday p.m. producing 6 or 7 schoolies.

On the north shore a good run of bass to 20 lbs., although most are schoolies and weaks from 6 to 9 lbs. being taken along local beaches according to Stan of the **Rocky Point Fishing Stop**. The fishing has been going on for 2 weeks and was labeled by Stan as being the most consistent action in this area in a long time. Before dark the Tri-Fin spoon jig has been very effective while 5½'' Rebels and Tri-Fin eel worms take over after dark.

Ronnie Ferraro reported from his Huntington shop that Rebels, bucktails and whiptails have been taking some school bass at the Power Plant while the same white bucktails and white Tri-Fin eels worms have been taking some nice weaks in the Lloyd's Point area.

Linda Jendresky appears pleased as she poses with part of a flounder catch made in Hog Island Channel aboard her cousin's boat, Overtime.

High Tide Tables

How to use tide tables:

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet...–0 50" is listed under "ON SANDY HOOK." –0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

DAY	SANDY HOOK		Breakwater Harbor		NEW YORK		NEW LONDON		WILLETS POINT		BRIDGE-PORT		NEWPORT		DATE
	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	
THUR.	3:35	4:15	4:20	5:05	3:55	4:50	5:20	5:55	6:45	7:20	7:00	7:30	3:45	4:15	5/28
FRI.	4:40	5:15	5:25	6:00	5:05	5:50	6:15	6:45	7:50	8:25	8:00	8:30	4:40	5:15	5/29
SAT.	5:40	6:10	6:20	6:55	6:10	6:45	7:15	7:40	8:55	9:25	9:00	9:25	5:35	6:05	5/30
SUN.	6:40	7:05	7:15	7:45	7:10	7:40	8:05	8:30	10:05	10:20	9:55	10:20	6:30	6:55	5/31
MON.	7:35	7:55	8:10	8:35	8:05	8:30	9:00	9:20	11:00	11:15	10:50	11:10	7:25	7:50	6/1
TUE.	8:25	8:45	9:05	9:30	9:00	9:20	9:55	10:10	11:55	–	11:45	–	8:15	8:40	6/2
WED.	9:15	9:35	9:55	10:20	9:55	10:15	10:45	11:00	12:10	12:55	12:00	12:40	9:05	9:30	6/3
THUR.	10:05	10:25	10:50	11:10	10:50	11:10	11:40	11:55	1:00	1:50	12:55	1:30	10:00	10:20	6/4

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	–0 01
Red Bank, Navesink, R.I.	+0 48
Long Branch	–0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	–0 18
Shark River Basin	+0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	–0 12
Seaside Park	–0 33
Mantoloking zbridge	+5 34
TOMS RIVER	+4 37
Waretown	+2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	–0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+2 33
Beach Haven	+1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	–0 01
Seven Islands	+0 12
Graveling Point	+1 05
Mullica River	+1 55
Grassy Bay	+1 08
ABSECON INLET	+0 14
Atlantic City Pier	–0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+0 46
CORSON INLET	+0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+0 45
Cape May Harbor	–0 02
Rehoboth Beach	–0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	–0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	–0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Harts Cove	+1 30
Pontunck Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	–0 38
Democrat Point	–0 38
Coast Guard Station	–0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	–0 19
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	–0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	–0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+0 38
JFK Airport	+0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	–0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	–0 08
Herod Point	–0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 19
Horton Point	–0 20
Truman Beach	–0 42
Falkner Island	–0 13
Sachem Head	–0 10
Branford Harbor	–0 07
New Haven Harbor	–0 08
Milford Harbor	–0 07
Stratford	+0 27
Shelton	+1 36
Black Rock Harbor	–0 03
Saugatuck River	–0 01
South Norwalk	+0 10
Greens Ledge	–0 01
Stamford	+0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+0 06
Greenwich	+0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land	–0 14
Montauk Inlet	–0 25
Montauk Point	–1 13
Niantic	+1 20
Stonington	–0 33
Noank, Mystic River	–0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	–0 01
Norwich	+0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+1 10
Lyme	+1 24
Essex	+1 38
East Haddam	+2 41
Higganum Creek	+2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	–0 10
Execution Light	–0 06
Manhasset Bay	–0 01
Hempstead Harbor	–0 11
City Island	–0 03
Rye Beach	–0 28
Port Chester	–0 09
Mamaroneck	–0 08
New Rocheele	–0 24
Davids Island	–0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	–0 10
Miami Beach	+1 17
East Point	+0 53
Egg Island Point	+0 33
Cape Henlopen	–0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+0 58
Ossining	+1 53
Peekskill	+2 24
West Point	+3 16
Newburg	+3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	–0 10
Tiverton	+0 21
Beavertail Point	–0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+0 10
Bristol	+0 10
Warren	+0 21
Nayett Point	+0 12
Pawtucket	+0 21
East Greenwich	+0 16
Wickford	+0 12
Narragansett Pier	–0 08
Point Judith Harbor	–0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+0 05
Old Harbor	–0 14
Watch Hill Point	+0 44

Sunrise/Sunset

5/29	5:29	8:26
5/30	5:29	8:27
5/31	5:28	8:28
6/1	5:28	8:29
6/2	5:27	8:30
6/3	5:26	8:31
6/4	5:26	8:32

Moonrise/Moonset

5/29	3:13AM	3:42PM
5/30	3:46AM	4:55PM
5/31	4:22AM	6:10PM
6/1	5:02AM	7:25PM
6/2	5:47AM	8:38PM
6/3	6:39AM	9:46PM
6/4	7:37AM	10:45PM

Moon Phases

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
6/2	3/9	6/17	6/25

The Original Knight
SOLUNAR TABLES
When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for this week as printed below have been taken from the original ***KNIGHT SOLUNAR TABLES.*** Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for 1½ to 2 hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type face.

	AM		PM	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
Thurs.	1:10	**7:15**	1:25	**7:40**
Fri.	1:55	**8:05**	2:15	**8:30**
Sat.	2:45	**8:50**	3:00	**9:20**
Sun.	3:35	**9:45**	3:55	**10:10**
Mon.	4:25	**10:35**	4:45	**11:05**
Tues.	5:20	**11:30**	5:40	**11:55**
Wed.	6:15	—	6:35	**12:25**
Thurs.	7:20	**1:10**	8:00	**1:45**

MARINE DISCOUNT COUPONS!

From the Warehouse Through the Stores, Our **Memorial Week Sale** is On! That's Discount below our Regular Discount Prices at the Number One Location for all your Boating Needs!

SAVE UP TO 50% OFF

All Coupons Exp. 6/3/81

STARBRITE MARINE POLISH

SAVE $1.96

- Restores original shine and color ■ Ideal for fiberglass and aluminum ■ Applies easily even in hot sun ■ 16 oz. liquid

$3.79

List $5.75

All Coupons Exp. 6/3/81

ADULT MULTI-PURPOSE LIFE VEST

UP TO SAVE $21.07

USCG Approved for Water Skiing, Boating, Canoeing, Sailing or Fishing. Soft comfortable high gloss vinyl coated. Assorted colors & sizes.

List $46.95-$49.95

$28.88

All Coupons Exp. 6/3/81

TELEFLEX GAUGES 50% OFF LIST ON ALL STOCK GAUGES

Stock Models #479

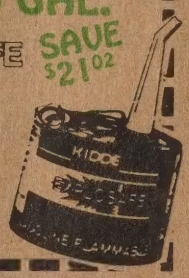
All Coupons Exp. 6/3/81

KIDDE 5 GAL. EXPLOSAFE GAS CAN

SAVE $21.02

$22.98

List $44



All Coupons Exp. 6/3/81

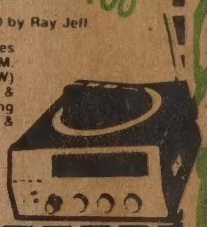
RADIO DIRECTION FINDER #630 by Ray Jefferson

SAVE $100

5 band unit provides navigable fixes on AM, Marine & Beacon (LW) BAnds. AM FM radio & a marine Monitoring receiver in AM & VHF FM

List $239.95

$139.95



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MARINE RESIN

SAVE $13.61

A Fiberglass Resin that Coats, Seals, Patches and Laminates with nor runs or sags. Fast curing!

List $30.49 gal.

$16.88 gal.

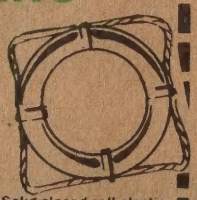
All Coupons Exp. 6/3/81

LIFE RING

SAVE $9.07

List $25.95

$16.88



■ USCG Approved ■ Solid closed cell plastic throughout ■ Resists weather and temperature ■ 18" diam.

All Coupons Exp. 6/3/81

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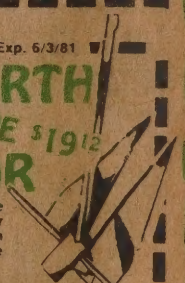
SAVE $19.12

Designed to have the greatest holding power for it's size. Dig in quickly and penetrate deeply.

$25.88 List $45



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Save on Winter Ski & Sporting Goods 12 mos. a Year!

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Now in Stock! Teleflex Cables & Steering Systems, Mooring Anchors & Marine Paints all at Discount Prices!